United Nations S/PV.7544

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7544th meeting

Tuesday, 27 October 2015, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi	(Spain)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Casimiro
	Chad	Mr. Amir
	Chile	Mr. Olguín Cigarroa
	China	Mr. Zhao Yong
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Mr. Dambrauskas
	Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Suárez Moreno

Agenda

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

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15-33614 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on the agenda.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Ambassador Gerard van Bohemen, Permanent Representative of New Zealand, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Van Bohemen.

Mr. Van Bohemen (New Zealand): In my June briefing to the Council (see S/PV.7463), I outlined how the threat from Al-Qaida and its associates had evolved over the previous year. I also addressed how the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities had responded to this evolving threat..

Since then, the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team has presented two reports to the Committee: the first, pursuant to resolution 2214 (2015), on the threat posed by Al-Qaida and associated groups in Libya, in particular the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), also known as Daesh, and Ansar Al-Sharia; and the second on the impact of the measures introduced in resolution 2199 (2015) against ISIL and the Al-Nusra Front. The findings from these reports form the basis of my briefing today. I will also make some additional remarks on the Committee's general work.

The Monitoring Team presented its report on the terrorism threat in Libya to the Committee on 12 October. I understand that, due to a delay in translation, the report will be available as a United Nations document at the beginning of November. The Committee has also agreed several actions based on recommendations made by the Monitoring Team in the report.

In advance of the report's circulation, I will limit myself to a few key observations. The report concluded that while the threat from Al-Qaida and its associates, including ISIL in Libya, is not new, the current situation signals a potentially increasing level of threat. Libya presents fertile ground for Al-Qaida-associated groups to opportunistically exploit and complicate an already difficult situation.

Libya is also strategically valuable to such terrorist groups. Its geographic location in Africa and proximity to Southern Europe is important. It is also a gateway to the African desert, stretching to a number of African countries, and it has significant oil resources, widespread availability of arms and weak internal security. Not surprisingly, Libya continues to attract significant numbers of foreign terrorist fighters from the Middle East and North Africa.

The report concludes that ISIL in Libya has so far been the only known ISIL affiliate that benefits from support and guidance from ISIL in Syria and Iraq. The report further notes that ISIL, with an estimated strength of 2,000 to 3,000 fighters, is an evident short- and long-term threat. ISIL's central command in Iraq and Syria views Libya as a good opportunity to expand its so-called caliphate. It controls territory in and around Sirte and has terrorist cells in several Libyan cities, including Derna, clearly demonstrating an intention to control additional territory. It has been able to perpetrate attacks in many other parts of the country. Several of the individuals involved in these attacks, and senior ISIL leadership in Libya, have not yet been designated. To extend the reach of the sanctions measures, including to those individuals, we will need Member States to provide further listing proposals to the Committee.

There are some moderating factors on the threat from ISIL in Libya. ISIL currently lacks popular support and is seen by locals as a foreign terrorist organization not embedded in their communities. ISIL in Libya is therefore very dependent on incoming and returning foreign terrorist fighters for support. The Committee would like to remind Member States that advance passenger information, or API, can facilitate detection of the movement of individuals who are on the Al-Qaida sanctions list. Member States should exercise vigilance regarding the travel of individuals to Libya. As Chair, I will raise with the relevant stakeholders the possibility of a joint meeting for analyzing any capacity

gaps in Libya, including border-control issues, and for discussing ways to address those gaps.

Finally, as regards Libya, the report notes that long-standing regional terrorist organizations such as Ansar Al-Sharia, and in particular Ansar Al-Sharia Derna, seem to have weakened since ISIL became established. However, they continue to operate and use Libya as a base.

I now turn to the impact of the measures imposed in resolution 2199 (2015). In August, the Monitoring Team presented to the Committee its assessment of the impact of the measures introduced in resolution 2199 (2015). The Chair's summary of the assessment was circulated to the Council on 25 September and can be found on the Committee's website. The Committee has also agreed on several actions based on the Monitoring Team's recommendations. They are largely aimed at raising awareness of the threats posed by ISIL and the Al-Nusra Front, particularly around financing, and suggest ways in which Member States and the private sector could implement the required measures.

The measures introduced in resolution 2199 (2015) to inhibit financing of ISIL and the Al-Nusra Front focused on eliminating their key revenue streams, namely, oil smuggling, antiquities looting and trafficking, kidnapping for ransom and illegal donations. The Monitoring Team considered that resolution 2199 (2015) has had an effect in raising awareness of the need for concerted action by Member States, particularly where ISIL's smuggling of antiquities and accessing of the international financial system are concerned. However, the Monitoring Team identified a series of major challenges that have complicated effective implementation of the measures, including the difficulty of identifying the origin of seized crude oil and antiquities. The Monitoring Team further noted that it would be premature to make a full assessment of the impact of resolution 2199 (2015), only five months after its adoption.

By way of assistance, the Committee has produced a note, also available on the Committee's website, which outlines the challenges and suggests some solutions. At the Committee's direction, the Monitoring Team is currently preparing a technical assistance note for business entities on oil and antiquities smuggling by ISIL. Other agreed Committee actions, such as the production of a voluntary self-assessment tool and outreach with humanitarian actors, are forthcoming.

I would now like to provide the Council with three short updates on the work of the Committee more generally. First, in September, the Al-Qaida sanctions list expanded with the inclusion of 20 more names, most of them related to ISIL. This reflects the growing threat that ISIL poses and efforts by Member States to propose designations. The Al-Qaida sanctions list now contains 247 individuals and 74 entities.

Secondly, the new Ombudsperson for the 1267 sanctions regime, Ms. Catherine Marchi-Uhel, commenced her important responsibilities in early July. There have also been some changes in the Monitoring Team's composition. I would like to acknowledge the Team's hard work under the leadership of its Acting Coordinator, Hans-Jakob Schindler, which has been both timely and of high quality.

Finally, I plan to convene another open briefing for interested Member States in November. As with the open briefing held in April this year, I intend it to be an informal, interactive discussion of the Committee's work. I encourage interested Member States to participate and to contact the Chair or the Committee in advance about issues on which they would like to be briefed. We expect the discussion to be particularly useful ahead of the December mandate review of the 1267 sanctions regime.

In conclusion, it is important that the international community provide support to Libya and its neighbours in the struggle against Al-Qaida, ISIL and their associates. Countering ISIL and the Al-Nusra Front in Iraq and Syria must remain a high priority for the Council and its members. For the success of our common endeavour, it is critical that we encourage all Member States to fully implement, support and promote the measures adopted by this body.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Ambassador Van Bohemen for his briefing.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 3.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7545

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7545th meeting

Wednesday, 28 October 2015, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi	(Spain)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Ms. Sapag Muñoz de la Peña
	China	Mr. Shen Bo
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Jordan	Mrs. Kawar
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Suárez Moreno

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2015/729)

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15-33824 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2015/729)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Sudan to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Edmond Mulet, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/729, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

I now give the floor to Mr. Mulet.

Mr. Mulet: I thank you, Mr. President, for this opportunity to brief the Security Council on the situation in Darfur.

The report of the Secretary-General (S/2015/729) of 25 September, which is before the Council, provides an update and analysis of the conflict, the political situation and the operational environment in Darfur, as well as the mandate implementation efforts of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). I will highlight key developments identified in the report and over the past month.

As described in the report, the overall security situation in Darfur remains precarious and unpredictable. From December 2014 to June 2015, the forces of the Government of the Sudan implemented the second phase of the Decisive Summer counter-insurgency operation. achieving considerable gains against the non-signatory armed movements. The operation, which involved a series of violent ground clashes and aerial bombardment, led to over 104,000 newly confirmed displacements, as well as 69,000 unconfirmed cases, mainly located in the inaccessible East Jebel Marra area. Since June 2015, with the exception of intermittent clashes with the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid, which remains in East Jebel Marra, Government forces have maintained an operational pause during the rainy season.

In contrast, there has been no pause in intercommunal fighting, which remains a major source of instability in Darfur and has resulted in approximately one-third of all conflict-related fatalities and 40 per cent of displacement so far this year. These disputes have been further exacerbated by the involvement of local armed groups in counter-insurgency operations against the armed movements, their access to weapons, continued local influence and widespread impunity for their attacks against other tribes and other criminal activities. The Government of the Sudan, particularly at the state level, has attempted to contain the violence through the swift deployment of security forces in hotspots in North, East, South and West Darfur, and the organization of intercommunal mediation conferences for the cessation of hostilities. However, the underlying causes of these conflicts, related to the use and management of resources and impunity of actors involved in the violence, remain unaddressed.

With respect to the negotiations, following earlier announcements to this effect, on 28 September President Al-Bashir issued decrees providing for a two-month cessation of hostilities in Darfur, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states, and an unconditional pardon to members of the Sudanese political and armed opposition who decide to participate in the national dialogue process. On 18 October, following a meeting of its leadership in Paris, the Sudan Revolutionary Front declared its own six-month cessation of hostilities in Darfur and the Two Areas in accordance with its road map of 14 September. The road map further provides for the protection of civilians, unhindered humanitarian access and the creation of an environment conducive to peace talks and the national dialogue.

These positive signals, however, did not reduce the evel of distrust between the two sides. On 10 October, President Al-Bashir launched the national dialogue in Khartoum without the participation of the main armed and unarmed opposition groups. In his opening remarks, the President committed to creating an enabling environment for the participation of all citizens in the dialogue and the release of political detainees who have

not been charged with an offense, and highlighted the Government's readiness to engage in discussions on a permanent ceasefire with the armed movements.

In subsequent statements to the media, the Sudanese political and armed opposition reiterated their boycott of the process in the absence of a conducive environment for a genuine dialogue, as well as their willingness to participate in a pre-dialogue meeting in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP). The AUHIP meeting on the national dialogue, followed by cessation of hostilities talks on Darfur and the Two Areas that were initially scheduled for next week, are now expected to take place, respectively, in Addis Ababa from 16 to 17 and from 18 to 19 November.

During the reporting period, UNAMID and humanitarian actors continued to face enormous operational challenges in Darfur. The Government of the Sudan continued to restrict the air and ground movement of UNAMID and humanitarian actors primarily to conflict areas, citing security concerns. Delays and denials by the Government of customs clearances for UNAMID containers, including food rations and visas for staff, have threatened to significantly undermine mandate implementation efforts.

I am relieved to inform the Council that, out of the 190 containers previously blocked in Port Sudan, 52 have been released by the authorities and are being transported to warehouses in Khartoum for further inspections and subsequent transport to the Mission. An additional 52 containers are expected to be cleared and transported to Khartoum this week. The remaining 86 containers are at various stages of the clearance process. In addition, as part of its contingency plan in this context, UNAMID has successfully transported by air locally purchased food items from Khartoum to El Fasher, El Geneina and Nyala. There has been no progress on the issuing of visas since Mr. Ladsous' briefing to the Council two weeks ago.

In addition to these operational constraints, in the past four months an increase in attacks against UNAMID and its personnel has been recorded in Darfur, including the killing of a South African peacekeeper by an armed group north of Mellit, North Darfur, on 27 September. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my deepest condolences to his family and to the Government of South Africa.

Despite these considerable obstacles, UNAMID remained steadfast in the implementation of its strategic priorities and addressing key challenges to mandate implementation. In response to the growing levels of intercommunal violence and as part of its strategic priorities, UNAMID supported the mediation of intercommunal conflict through capacity-building and engagement with national and local Government, traditional mediators, tribal and community leaders and the Darfur Regional Authority. In this regard, the Mission also focused its efforts on developing early-warning capacity and other preventive measures with local stakeholders, promoting dialogue between farming and pastoral communities and supporting local institutions to address the root causes of the conflict, in collaboration with the United Nations country team.

In support of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, and despite the tensions surrounding the leadership contest among its signatories, UNAMID continued to facilitate the demobilization of former Liberation and Justice Movement and Justice and Equality Movement-Sudan combatants and to support the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultations process. After extending the term of the Darfur Regional Authority for an additional year in June, on 19 October, President Al-Bashir announced the holding in April 2016 of a referendum to determine the administrative status of Darfur.

In accordance with resolutions 2173 (2014) and 2228 (2015), UNAMID and the United Nations country team continued their work on developing an operational plan for the gradual and phased transfer of tasks to the latter, outlining which tasks will be conducted jointly or transferred and the requisite budgetary requirements. The initial phases of the process are expected to focus on capacity-building for the sexual and gender-based violence prevention mechanisms, and joint activities in the police, justice and corrections sector.

Regarding the exit strategy, the Deputy Secretary-General, the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Foreign Minister of the Sudan met in the margins of the seventieth session of the General Assembly in New York, on 29 September, to discuss a framework of cooperation regarding the implementation of the UNAMID mandate and the format and exit strategy based on the parameters and benchmarks set by the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council. Trilateral discussions are expected to continue in early November.

I would like to conclude with comments on the overall situation in Darfur and the relationship between UNAMID and the Government of the Sudan. A comprehensive resolution of the Darfur conflict, allowing for the return of the over 2.6 million displaced persons to their places of origin, requires first and foremost a political settlement between the Government and the armed movements. The stated intent of the parties to engage in discussions on the cessation of hostilities, as well as the national dialogue in Addis Ababa, is therefore a commendable step in that direction. It is crucially important that those meetings take place as scheduled and that they create momentum for future comprehensive direct talks on Darfur.

I would like to urge the Government of the Sudan to maintain its current cooperation in ensuring the swift clearance of UNAMID food rations and their delivery to the mission. In order to fully re-establish its collaborative working relationship with the United Nations and the African Union on UNAMID and allow the mission to effectively discharge its mandate, I would furthermore call upon the Government to lift all existing restrictions on the free movement of its personnel and assets, particularly with regard to access to conflict areas and, importantly, the issuance of visas, consistent with the provisions of the UNAMID status-of-forces agreement.

Finally, as Council members are aware, yesterday the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission announced the appointment of Mr. Martin Uhomoibhi of Nigeria as their new Joint Special Representative for Darfur and Head of UNAMID. On behalf of the Secretary-General, I would like to congratulate Mr. Uhomoibhi on his appointment. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Abiodun Oluremi Bashua for his dedication to peace in Darfur and his tireless efforts to deliver on UNAMID's mandate during his tenure as Acting Joint Special Representative over the past year.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Mr. Mulet for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Mohamed (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): On behalf of the Government of the Sudan, and on my own behalf, I would like to express our gratitude to the Secretary-General for his quarterly report (S/2015/729) on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), as well as for his close personal monitoring of the work of the mission, which has included the engagement of the Sudanese Government in the process since the adoption of resolution 1769 (2007). I also thank the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and all the staff of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for their good cooperation in achieving our common goals.

I should like to express my condolences to UNAMID and to the friendly Government of South Africa following the death of that country's citizen in Darfur. We face armed groups that are killing the messangers of peace.

We are greatly concerned about references in various parts of the report to the lack of progress towards a peaceful political resolution of the conflict in Darfur, as well as about the Secretary-General's repeated call on both the Government and the armed movements there to immediately and without preconditions resume direct talks. I sincerely hope that no one will seek to be excused from adhering to the 2011 Doha Document for Peace in Darfur as a precondition for participating in the talks. There is no alternative to a negotiated agreement of international nature. Abandoning this would lead nowhere but to a recurring cycle of violence and a return to a protracted conflict situation, which has already been surmounted on the ground in Darfur.

We call upon the members of the Security Council to review the conclusions of the meeting of the Implementation Follow-Up Commission of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, which is made up of representatives of the Government of the Sudan, the five permanent members of the Council, neighbouring countries and international partners for peace. The Commission meets twice a year with a view to eliminating obstacles that could hinder progress in implementing the agreement. Granting this international Commission due relevance and support would ensure the elimination of all the obstacles to implementation. Moreover, the establishment of such a mechanism was a landmark event in the history of the peaceful settlement of disputes in the world.

The Sudan is currently in the process of an inclusive national dialogue, as called for and launched on the basis of an initiative of the President of our country. The dialogue includes armed movements and groups that have resorted to violence as a means to achieve political aims in Darfur. The initiative aims at exploring the prospective configuration of a

future political environment in the Sudan by building consensus on the drafting of a permanent constitution to replace the provisional Constitution of 2005, which is credited for time-bound achievements in implementing the principle of self-determination and conducting the referendum that led to the creation of the State of South Sudan.

Presidential and parliamentary elections took place in April throughout the country, including the five states of Darfur. The successful holding of violence-free elections in the context of an internal conflict provides indisputable proof of a return to normalcy in the conflict area. In that regard, I would like to note that the holding of elections in a zone of conflict anywhere in the world is indicative of the prevalence of post-conflict measures. I hope that the Council will take that into account.

What I have just mentioned does not mean that the states of Darfur are free of violence. However, incidents of violence in Darfur are not indicative of the existence of an internal conflict commensurate with the definition of such under international law, in particular the one set out in the 1997 annex II to the the four Geneva Conventions of 1949. That is also true with regard to the political narrative depicting the security situation and the real state of events on the ground in Darfur.

I should also like to refer to paragraphs 16, 25 and 27 of the report of the Secretary-General, which indicate that incidents of crime, including theft, armed robbery, carjacking and other crimes, are all being committed by individual outlaws.

The facts of the situation we have described unequivocally point to a transition from a conflict-management situation to a conflict-ending situation having occurred. What is required now is commitment to development efforts and to mitigate the devastating effects of desertification and environmental degradation in Darfur. That requries the fulfilment of the financial commitments made for development by the international community, in line with the parameters set out in the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.

We are deeply concerned about the incidents involving attacks on UNAMID patrols by individuals or groups of individuals. They are robbing and looting and, while their numbers and weapons are inferior to those of UNAMID, they have met with little to no resistance. Seen in the context of carrying out its duty to protect civilians and their right to self-defence, those incidents justify the growing concerns regarding the relevance and efficiency of UNAMID.

We regret that we have to scrutinize the statistics with regard to certain areas in the report. For example, the report has removed those statistics from their appropriate contexts, such as in the case of the accusations levied against the Sudanese Government, which has allegedly refused to issue visas to UNAMID staff. Likewise, the number of displaced persons is inaccurate. That statistic does not take into account, for example, inter-tribal clashes, which are usually followed by immediate measures taken by State authorities to contain those hostilities. That is done with the help of the long-standing and traditional magistrate-mediated system, by creating buffer zones between the belligerent parties, which consequently results in the return of displaced persons to their villages and towns. Those numbers are not reflected in the report.

Furthermore, there is the phenomenon of what we might call temporary displacement. That involves farmers who are attracted by the material conditions offered in the internally displaced persons camps, who usually return to their villages of their own accord to cultivate the surrounding land during the rainy season and afterwards return once again to the camps. That kind of temporary displacement was not fully taken into account when the statistics were tabulated. We would like to draw the Council's attention to the statistics cited by the Darfur Regional Authority, established under the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. They are in complete contradiction with the numbers contained in the report.

Controversy has erupted here at the United Nations during the past two weeks with regard to two episodes mentioned in the report under consideration. The first has to do with the withholding of visas for UNAMID staff members. We would like to refer the Council to a bulletin of the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) issued in Khartoum in May. It states that positive responses to requests for visas and travel permissions varied — and I emphasize this — between 86 per cent and 96 per cent. That statistic comes from OCHA. The arbitrary numbers mentioned in the report concerning the issuing of visas and the way that they are taken out of general context are meant, in our opinion, to level accusations against the Government in order to deem it non-cooperative, and therefore stall the peacekeeping operation.

In addition, the UNAMID mission insisted on terminating the service of a number of local staff members and replaced them with international staff, for whom visas were requested. That runs contrary to the strategic review recommendations, which called for a reduction in the number of international security personnel, who were to be replaced by local staff.

I would like to call on the Council once again to scrutinize those reports, the elements contained in the UNAMID report and the facts and figures related to the issuing of visas. We have brought those statistics here, Sir, and if you allow us, we could circulate them. The Sudan has exercised its sovereign right in disseminating those facts and figures.

The second issue is related to the customs clearance of food containers in Port Sudan. The problem of the food containers could have been solved without complications, if the UNAMID mission had complied with the customs rules that had been agreed upon — particularly in connection to its acting head — regarding the advance submission of the containers' inventories. The mission elected not to inform the Ministry for Foreign Affairs or the tripartite commission made up of UNAMID itself, the Government of the Sudan and the African Union in seeking a timely solution to the issue and avoiding a worsening of the situation. We have informed the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations of the particulars of that matter.

As I said at the beginning of my statement, we are prepared to cooperate with UNAMID to achieve the common goals, based on resolution 1769 (2007), on the establishment of the mission, including the development of an exit strategy, and to build on what was delivered by the tripartite commission. In that regard, we are pleased to note that the report includes clear references to cooperation on the part of the Government of the Sudan, as well as to achievements in that regard. I would like to cite the following examples.

First, there was a decrease in displacement during the reporting period.

Secondly, there is clarification of the reasons for launching air strikes against rebel armed groups and their targets:

> "The combined air and ground offensive succeeded in dislodging [Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid] from Rokero, Rowata and Burgo villages." (*S/2015/729, para. 3*)

Thirdly, in paragraph 42, the report mentions that UNAMID military personnel conducted a very large number of patrols and humanitarian armed escorts. That fact serves to refute accusations of restrictions on the movement of those forces.

Fourthly, in paragraph 73, the report refers to the efforts of the Government to contain the effects of fighting among local tribes.

Fifthly, the Secretary-General thanks the Government of Qatar for its continued support for the Doha Document for Peace, which is embraced and adhered to by the Government of the Sudan as well as by the United Nations, which was the advocate, sponsor and partner of the peace negotiations.

Lastly, in paragraph 75, the report refers to the progress made in the implementation of the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7546

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7546th meeting

Wednesday, 28 October 2015, 1 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi	(Spain)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Chad	Mr. Gombo
	Chile	Ms. Sapag Muñoz de la Peña
	China	Mr. Zhao Yong
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Jordan	Mrs. Kawar
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Malaysia	Ms. Mokhtar
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Nigeria	Mr. Adamu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Suárez Moreno

Agenda

The situation in Burundi

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15-33841 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 1 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Burundi

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Council has before it the text of a statement by the President on behalf of the Council on the subject of today's meeting. I thank Council members for their valuable contributions to this statement. In accordance with the understanding reached among the members of the Council, I shall take it that the members of the Security Council agree to the statement, which will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2015/18.

It is so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7547

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7547th meeting

Friday, 30 October 2015, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi	(Spain)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Chad	Mr. Ali Adoum
	Chile	Mr. Olguín Cigarroa
	China	Mr. Xu Zhongsheng
	France	Mr. Stehelin
	Jordan	Mr. Omaish
	Lithuania	Mr. Baublys
	Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)

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15-34217 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Following consultations among the members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on their behalf:

"The Security Council welcomes the continued participation by the wider membership in the open debate held on 20 October 2015 under the agenda item 'Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)'.

"The Security Council expresses its intent to continue to hold an annual open debate on its working methods and affirms its commitment to continue to keep its working methods under consideration in its regular work, with a view to ensuring their effective and consistent implementation.

"The Security Council recalls its commitment to making more effective use, as appropriate, of open meetings, and to this end expresses its commitment to continue to take steps to improve the focus and interactivity of its open debates. In this regard, the Security Council welcomes joint statements by both Security Council members and other Member States.

"The Security Council underscores the importance of increased coordination, cooperation and interaction among the principal organs of the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretariat, as well as with other relevant bodies, including the Peacebuilding Commission and regional organizations, including the African Union, and reaffirms that the relationship between the principal organs of the United Nations is mutually reinforcing and complementary, in accordance with and with full respect for their respective functions, authority, powers and competencies as enshrined in the Charter. In this regard, the Security Council takes notes of the adoption, on 11 September 2015, by the General Assembly, of resolution 69/321, and the continued cooperation between the President of the Security Council and the President of the General Assembly.

"The Security Council appreciates the work undertaken by the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, and requests the Informal Working Group to continue reviewing and updating relevant notes by the President of the Security Council, in particular note S/2010/507, of 26 July 2010, including with a focus on implementation.

"The Security Council takes note of the efforts of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions to enhance the transparency of its activities, including by the Chair providing regular briefings to interested Member States, in consultation with its members, and encourages the Working Group to make further progress in this regard.

"The Security Council further appreciates the efforts on working methods undertaken by its other subsidiary bodies aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and transparency of their activities, and encourages them, as appropriate, to make further progress."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2015/19.

Before I adjourn the meeting, I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to all the members of the Security Council for their efficient cooperation with the presidency this month. I express my thanks for the flexibility of all members. I think that Spain has met the goals it set for itself at the beginning of its presidency. I believe that, working together, we have succeeded in moving forward on genuinely relevant and important issues for the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as for improving the efficiency of the Security Council.

One could say that the presidential statement we have just adopted is in fact the first such document the Council has ever adopted, as the only existing precedent is a very short presidential statement of just about one paragraph. I think it is a good sign that we are able to adopt texts that bind us in future to continue to work with greater efficiency and dedication.

I would also like especially to thank the Security Council Affairs Division (SCAD) for its ongoing assistance and guidance to the presidency. We serve only 30 days in the presidency; SCAD is always there — a permanent voice and astute and effective counsel. I also express my gratitude to the interpreters for their dedication and patience throughout all of the Council's meetings. And I thank all the States Members of the United Nations for following our open meetings.

In addition, I would like to express my thanks to my team at the Spanish Mission. Without them, nothing would have been possible. They have shown boundless enthusiasm and dedication, which nearly exhaused this Permanent Representative in carrying out his duties.

Last but not least, I want to wish all the best to the British Ambassador, who is not with us today — I am sure because he is preparing for his presidency.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7548

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 November 2015

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 7548th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 4 November 2015, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"At its 7548th meeting, held in private on 4 November 2015, the Security Council considered the item entitled 'Briefing by the President of the International Court of Justice'.

"The President of the Security Council invited Judge Ronny Abraham, President of the International Court of Justice, to participate in the meeting in accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"The members of the Council heard a briefing by Judge Abraham.

"The members of the Council and Judge Abraham had an exchange of views".

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United Nations S/PV.7549

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7549th meeting

Thursday, 5 November 2015, 9.30 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Rycroft	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Chad	Mr. Gombo
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Zhao Yong
	France	Mr. Stehelin
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Mrs. Juodkaitė Putrimienė
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zagaynov
	Spain	Mr. González de Linares Palou
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

The situation in Libya

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council. Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

15-35200 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 9.30 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Libya

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Libya to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

In the spirit of the Council's working methods as set out in document S/2010/507, I would kindly request the briefer this morning to keep her remarks to no longer than 15 minutes, and Council members to deliver their statements within a five-minute period.

I now give the floor to Prosecutor Bensouda.

Ms. Bensouda: I wish at the outset to thank the Council for this opportunity to address it on the situation in Libya. This is the tenth occasion on which I am providing this briefing since the referral of the situation to my Office in February 2011.

Libya has been embroiled in a seemingly endless cycle of violence, large-scale commission of crimes and chronic instability, with serious and debilitating ramifications for not only the proper functioning of State institutions, but also the human rights landscape in the country.

The breakdown of law and order induced by incessant conflict and political divide has resulted in an increase in the number of violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law. In such an environment, national efforts aimed at strengthening accountability for atrocity crimes and establishing the rule of law face great challenges.

But from trial and tribulation comes hope. As we are gathered here today, the Libyan people's long ordeal may soon see a redirection towards a more promising future for Libya. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), and to the strength and commitment of the Libyan people, significant progress has recently been made towards the goal of achieving peace and stability in the country through the creation of a Government of national unity.

The ongoing national dialogue, facilitated by the United Nations, aimed at the establishment of a Libyan Government of national accord, represents hope for a transition to national unity and durable peace, and it carries important promise for Libya's efforts in the promotion of the rule of law, the protection of civilians and the ending of impunity for atrocity crimes.

Any such initiative that is embraced by the Libyan people and achieves these laudable goals, including paying homage to justice as a critical pillar of sustainable peace, is, of course, welcomed by my Office.

In yet another important development of note, UNSMIL has facilitated successful talks towards the resolution of the Tawergha issue. The agreement reached in Tunis in September to develop strategies for the return of the Tawergha as well as to establish clear plans for reparations to the victims is a welcome development.

It is particularly noteworthy that the Misrata/Tarwergha Joint Committee affirmed its full support for the political dialogue and the formation of a Government of national accord so as to meet the aspirations of the Libyan people to establish the rule of law, end the conflict and safeguard Libyan unity.

The era of accountability and the rule of law, as a basis on which the future of the country can be built, may indeed be within reach for the Libyan people. We, as a collective, cannot fail the Libyan people by standing idly by as the country degenerates into chaos and further instability. My Office is ready to fully play its part in accordance with the Rome Statute by ensuring accountability for atrocity crimes in Libya. To that end, the Council's tangible support remains crucial.

As indicated in my Office's tenth report to the Council, a significant body of material provided by the Libyan authorities in late December 2014 continues to be reviewed, analysed and investigated, resulting in investigative progress towards shedding light on instances of atrocity crimes allegedly committed in Libya. Our cooperation with the Libyan authorities in obtaining the relevant materials continues. I stress the importance of undertaking investigations with respect to the ongoing crimes in Libya and reiterate my Office's every desire to do so. To that end, the Office requested resources for additional investigations as part of its 2016

proposed budget, to be considered by the States parties to the International Criminal Court (ICC). However, there are indications that those resources will likely not be forthcoming. As such, resource constraints in 2016 will impede the Office's ability to conduct these additional investigative activities.

It is of paramount importance that the ongoing crimes committed by different actors in Libya be investigated and that my Office be provided with the requisite resources to undertake these necessary investigations in accordance with its mandate. My Office therefore relies on the critical financial support of States parties in this regard, and I take this opportunity to call on them to provide this crucial funding. I equally and strongly invite the Council to seriously consider assisting the Office, in accordance with article 115(b) of the Rome Statute, to obtain the resources required for the effective investigation of alleged crimes committed in a situation that has been referred to the Court by this body.

Devising innovative and effective strategies and action plans on how to give meaning to the provisions of article 115(b) of the Rome Statute is essential.

Turning to the cases of the accused, Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi, the Council will recall that the Appeals Chamber of the ICC affirmed the admissibility of the case against Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi on 21 May 2014 and the inadmissibility of the case against Al-Senussi on 24 July 2014. To date, despite the repeated demands of my Office, Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi has not been surrendered to the custody of the ICC. The Libyan authorities must heed the Council's calls for cooperation and comply with the Court's request to immediately surrender Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi to the ICC. The Libyan authorities are under a clear legal obligation to do so, and remain non-compliant by failing to surrender him into ICC custody.

As Council members are aware, on 28 July the Tripoli Court of Assize sentenced both Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi, among other co-defendants, to death for the crimes they allegedly committed during Libya's 2011 uprising. This was an issue of concern, as my Office is still calling upon Libya to surrender Al-Qadhafi to the ICC while it has continued to monitor and collect information to enable it to determine whether there are new facts that may support an application for review under article 19 (10) of the Rome Statute of Pre-Trial Chamber I's decision finding the *Al-Senussi* case inadmissible before the Court.

My Office was also deeply concerned by videos of alleged acts of torture against Saadi Al-Qadhafi at Al-Hadba prison, which circulated online in August. Reports of alleged acts of torture or similar inhumane acts at the prison are relevant to the *Al-Senussi* case in the context of articles 17 and 19 (10) of the Rome Statute. My Office is currently investigating the circumstances depicted in the videos, including by seeking information from Libya and reviewing and assessing the materials already furnished by the Libyan authorities.

In its latest correspondence to my Office dated 23 October 2015, and in subsequent recent meetings with my team and myself directly, Libyan authorities have assured my Office that these allegations are being pursued, and that meaningful and concrete actions have and will continue to be taken in this regard. In addition, the Libyan authorities have provided my Office with documents related to their investigations into the alleged criminal events at the prison. Our initial assessment of the information provided gives hope for optimism about these national efforts. My Office will continue its constructive engagement with the Libyan authorities to ensure that the requisite information is provided for its own assessment of Rome Statute requirements.

It is also important to highlight the fact that on 30 July 2015, my Office filed a request with the Pre-Trial Chamber seeking an order directing Libya to refrain from executing Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi, to immediately surrender him to the Court, and to report his death sentence to the Council. In its response on 20 August 2015, Libya explained that the death sentence against Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi was non-enforceable in Libya because his trial was held in absentia, and that he will enjoy an absolute right to a new trial when he is transferred from Zintan into the custody of the Libyan authorities. Libya acknowledged that Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi was not in its custody.

In relation to the *Al-Senussi* case, my Office continues to monitor proceedings at the national level and to collect information to enable it to determine whether there are new facts in support of an application for a review of the decision on the admissibility of the case. It is worth emphasising that, under article 19 (10) of the Rome Statute, my Office can submit a request for review of the Pre-Trial Chamber's decision only if it is fully satisfied that there are new facts that negate the

basis of that decision. The Appeals Chamber of the ICC has held that, for due process violations in a domestic trial to lead to a case being deemed admissible before the ICC, the violations must be so egregious that the proceedings can no longer be regarded as being capable of providing any genuine form of justice to the accused. To that end, my Office sought and is carefully analysing information on the progress of the proceedings against Mr. Al-Senussi from UNSMIL, Human Rights Watch and the Libyan authorities.

My Office currently awaits the full UNSMIL report on the Libyan trial of Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi and the trial judgment, and will continue to follow the situation and to collect and analyse information with a view to determining whether to seek the Chamber's review of the admissibility of the *Al-Senussi* case. My Office's assessment of the information at its disposal at this stage is that it does not support an application for a review of the Pre-Trial Chamber's decision an the admissibility of the case against Al-Senussi. This position is necessarily limited to the information the Office currently has in its possession and is subject to change in accordance with reliable information that it may receive in the future.

My Office continues to monitor the situation in Libya and is concerned that large-scale crimes, including those under ICC jurisdiction, are being committed by all parties to the conflict. I remain equally concerned that all sides — including the Libyan national army, Libya Dawn and the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and their respective allies, and international actors — continue to commit attacks resulting in civilian casualties. Examples of these crimes have been set out in detail in my tenth report to the Council. My Office recalls that those responsible for these crimes can be prosecuted either at the national level or at the ICC. I reiterate here my Office's willingness and commitment to undertaking further investigations in Libya, but stress once again the need for States parties and the Council to ensure adequate funding to my Office for this purpose.

Pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011), the Council decided that

> "the Libyan authorities shall cooperate fully with and provide any necessary assistance to the Court and the Prosecutor pursuant to this resolution" (*resolution 1970 (2011), para. 5*).

This important declaration has been reiterated in subsequent resolutions of the Council. Continued cooperation, consultation and coordination between my Office and the Libyan authorities remain crucial for the implementation of the memorandum of understanding concluded in November 2013 on burden-sharing regarding investigations and prosecutions in Libya.

The Office appreciates the cooperation it continues to receive from both States parties and non-States parties, as well as international organizations, in the Libya situation, and we look forward to strengthening efforts and synergies to assist Libyan authorities in their efforts to build the rule of law in Libya. In this regard, I reiterate my previous calls for assistance to Libya in strengthening its national capacity to respond to Rome Statute crimes through the formation of an international contact group on justice issues.

The recent gains towards the establishment of the Libyan Government of national accord and national unity may indeed increase the prospects for reviving discussions on this proposal in the near future. Similarly, I appeal to all other States that have not yet done so to engage and cooperate with my Office. Some of the evidence and persons of interest to my Office are located outside of Libya and can be accessed only through the cooperation of States. Ending impunity for atrocity crimes in Libya is an important goal that is both achievable and necessary for sustainable peace and stability in the country. It is also a goal that only be met can through the joint action, commitment and substantial support of all the relevant actors.

The President: I thank Prosecutor Bensouda for her briefing.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Council.

Mr. Laro (Nigeria): I thank Prosecutor Bensouda for her briefing. We commend the International Criminal Court (ICC) for its significant contributions to the development of substantive and procedural international criminal law. We also recognize the important contributions of the Court to the promotion of the rule of law.

Nigeria commends the Libyan Prosecutor General and the Libyan representative to the ICC for their close cooperation with the Office of the Prosecutor. We welcome the exchange of information between the Libyan Prosecutor-General's Office and the Office

of the Prosecutor and commend the commitment and professionalism of the Libyan national investigators. We encourage the two sides to strengthen their cooperation and work together to end impunity in Libya.

With regard to Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi, we note the Pre-Trial Chamber's decision of 31 May 2013, confirmed by the 21 May 2014 decision of the Appeals Chamber, that his case is admissible. Therefore, as a State party to the Rome Statute, Libya has a legal obligation to surrender him to the Court.

Concerning Abdullah Al-Senussi, we note the decision of the Court that his case is inadmissible. We also note the ongoing efforts by the Office of the Prosecutor to monitor his trial in Libya for new facts that may support a reversal of the Court's decision concerning the admissibility of his case.

We note the progress that the Office of the Prosecutor has made in the ongoing investigation in Libya. That is particularly significant in the light of the difficult security situation in the country and the limited resources available to the Office. We commend the Office for investigating the crimes committed by different parties in Libya, including those committed by terrorist groups that are taking advantage of the political and security vacuum in the country. That is consistent with resolutions 2213 (2015) and 2238 (2015).

We condemn all mass executions, including that of 30 Ethiopian Christians, by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). We also condemn the abductions by ISIS and other terrorist groups. We call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire across Libya. Parties involved in the conflict should refrain from targeting civilians or civilian targets and should desist from committing atrocity crimes. We call on all Libyan militias to disarm and participate in the efforts to restore peace, law and order in the country. We support the political dialogue and the formation of a Government of national accord in order to meet the aspirations of the Libyan people, establish the rule of law, end the conflict and safeguard Libyan unity. That is vital to stabilizing the country and ending the impunity of terrorist groups and militias.

On the issue of resources, we note with concern that resource constraints might hinder the Office's ability to conduct additional investigative activities in 2016. We therefore call upon States parties to provide the funding required by the Office to undertake the necessary investigations in accordance with its mandate.

Finally, we call on key partners of Libya to provide the necessary support to the Libyan authorities for the purpose of restoring security in the country, protect civilians and strengthen capacity in the areas of justice and the rule of law.

Mr. Lucas (Angola): I would like to begin by wishing you, Mr. President, and the delegation of the United Kingdom success in your presidency of the Security Council. We also congratulate the Spanish delegation for their excellent work during their presidency in October. We thank Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, for her briefing on the tenth report submitted according to the provisions of resolution 1970 (2011).

Four months have passed since the previous report and debate of the Security Council on this issue. The report just presented reveals very little progress in the implementation of the memorandum of understanding, which is an important requirement for judicial cooperation between the Office of the Prosecutor and the Libyan authorities. The current political and security environment in Libya, marked by an institutional crisis and escalating violence, has impeded cooperation and the necessary assistance to the Court and to the Prosecutor's Office within the framework of resolution 1970 (2011). Extremist terrorist groups joined by foreign terrorist fighters, political and military factions and militias have created mayhem in the country. They attack civilians indiscriminately and commit egregious crimes such as abductions and mass executions. Against a backdrop of lawlessness and chaos, the conditions do not exist to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of such atrocity crimes, which the Statute of the International Criminal Court specifies as the primary responsibility of national authorities. However, it is obvious that in Libya there are no conditions to apply due process and fair trials.

Information provided by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights that detention facilities are illegally operated by various factions to the conflict is a matter of the utmost concern. The fact that thousands of people, including foreign citizens and children under 18, have been detained and exposed to ill-treatment, torture and sexual and gender-based violence — and, in the case of foreign detainees, subject to extortion in exchange for freedom — reveals the chaotic state of affairs of the Libyan justice system. We believe that only peace and stability will allow

Libya to have a normal system of justice and efficient judicial institutions.

We therefore reiterate our support for the efforts of the United Nations and the international community to continue to work with Libyan parties to reach a political settlement to the conflict. We urge them to respect the political agreement announced on 8 October by Special Representative of the Secretary-General Bernardino León, based on the conviction that Libya's ability to face the challenges of the future and build a peaceful society will ultimately depend upon political stability and State institutions based on the rule of law.

Mr. Barros Melet (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): As this is the first time this month that I speak in a public meeting, I would like to commend the delegation of Spain on its outstanding presidency of the Security Council last month. We also express to you, Sir, our determination to support you resolutely during this month.

We once again express our gratitude for the presence of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Ms. Fatou Bensouda, and value the presentation of her tenth report on Libya, in fulfilment of resolution 1970 (2011). My delegation, aware of the many difficulties being experienced by Libya and worried about the escalation of violence, shares the view that justice and accountability are essential to achieving sustainable and lasting peace.

Several delegations, as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights himself, have expressed concern about the high number of civilian deaths due to acts committed by various armed groups, especially those attributed to terrorist groups associated with the self-styled Islamic State. It is imperative to stop indiscriminate attacks and acts of kidnapping, torture, sexual violence and other cruel and degrading treatment, which should be the subject of serious and transparent investigations. That is why we encourage the efforts of the parties, with the help of United Nations, to set up a Government of national accord that will contribute to the necessary stability and to put an end to impunity.

Chile believes it is a duty to continue to insist on full cooperation with the International Criminal Court and its Prosecutor, pursuant to the provisions of resolution 1970 (2011). We also believe that the Libyan authorities must comply with their obligations under international law and cooperate with the Office of the Prosecutor as called for in resolutions 2174 (2014) and 2213 (2015). Moreover, we urge, on the one hand, that Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi be made immediately available to the Court and, on the other, that Abdullah Al-Senussi and other individuals receive guarantees of due process in Libya. Without that happening, international justice will lack the trust required to achieve its ends.

My country would also like to support the Prosecutor's call on the Council to make available resources to facilitate investigations referred to the Court in line with the provisions of article 115 (b) of the Rome Statute. Given the direct impact of the financial aspect on the work of the Office of the Prosecutor, we also believe that, together with the specific proposal of the Prosecutor, complementary formulas for financing should be applied, making it possible for that Office to carry its investigations forward in an effective and efficient fashion. That is a central concern.

In that vein, Chile will continue to work for a closer relation between the Council and the International Criminal Court, especially with regard to the two cases referred so far As we have expressed on earlier occasions, we are convinced that referrals are not an end in themselves. We repeat that it is the responsibility of the Council to conduct an effective follow-up, in compliance with the mandate given to the Court.

Finally, we wish to reiterate our recognition of the work of the Office of the Prosecutor in the investigation of the abuses and crimes committed against victims in different parts of Libya and its contribution to the process of strengthening a more just, inclusive and resilient Libyan society.

Mr. Gombo (Chad) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I wish to convey my gratitude to the delegation of Spain for its leadership in the work of the Council during the month of October. I also wish to congratulate you, Sir and your country, the United Kingdom, for directing our work this month. I would like to convey my gratitude to Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), for her briefing.

The security situation and the political and human rights situations in Libya remain alarming and continue to deteriorate as a result of ongoing violence and of serious violations of individual rights and freedoms. We do understand and indeed we share the concerns expressed in the report being considered — concerns regarding acts of torture and other degrading treatment of which a number of detainees have been victims. We

encourage further steps to be undertaken to clarify the situation, with the assistance of the Libyan Government. In that respect, we encourage efforts aimed at carrying out investigations to put an end to those illegal practices and to identify the perpetrators to ensure that they are brought to justice. We also note with concern the death sentences issued on 28 July, some in absentia, by the Tripoli Court of Assize against a number of detainees, including Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi.

While welcoming progress in terms of the investigations conducted in regard to crimes committed in Libya, we call upon the competent Libyan authorities to fully cooperate with the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to ensure that the detainees enjoy a fair trial, one that respects their right of defence. We take note of the initiative of the Prosecutor to gather new information so as to again consider the admissibility of the *Al-Senussi* case and thus to possibly to render a judgement at the International Criminal Court.

The insecurity sustained by the armed militias, the development of terrorism, the fresh outbreak of criminal activities, including human trafficking, and the lack of prospects for a political solution not only endanger the future of Libya, but also undermine all the institutions of State, including the judiciary. That is why we reiterate our call to all Libyan parties to make the necessary concessions to form a Government of national unity, one able to put an end to the conflict in a decisive way and to restore the authority of the State.

The chaotic situation currently prevailing in Libya is also marked by serious violations, including murders, abductions, torture and sexual violence, as well as the persecution of magistrates, politicians and other human rights defenders. Thousands of individuals have been caught up in violent fighting, and tens of thousands of others have fled their homes to seek refuge. That has been compounded by thousands of individuals detained without a trial, including African immigrants who have been subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment because of their race and their religion.

We energetically condemn all such violations and demand that those responsible be identified and brought to justice. To that end, the ICC, despite its limited resources, should explore the ways and means to be able to follow the situation closely, including by launching investigations for possible prosecution. In that respect, .the Security Council, which referred the situation in Libya to the ICC through resolution 1970 (2011), must back the efforts of the Court. We also call upon the States parties to the Rome Statute to do just the same.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our support to the work of the Prosecutor, and we wish to convey our appreciation for her untiring efforts aimed at discharging her mission.

Mr. Van Bohemen (New Zealand): Let me begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, and your team on the United Kingdom's assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month, and by thanking Spain and the Spanish delegation for the excellent work they did in conducting us in the month of October.

The situation in Libya is at a critical point. Reaching a political solution to the conflict is vital to the people of Libya now more than ever. We strongly urge the parties to conclude the Libyan political agreement, and we are looking forward to the briefing later this morning on the prospects for that final agreement.

I want to thank Ms. Bensouda for her report and her briefing. They are sobering. Violent deaths in Libya continue to increase month by month, and fighting in the south has displaced 12,000 people in just four months. We are particularly concerned that civilian areas, places of worship and medical facilities are repeatedly targeted, and minorities specifically so.

The Prosecutor's report makes plain that crimes are being committed on all sides of the conflict. It is also clear that the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and groups that have pledged allegiance to ISIL are playing a particularly destructive role. The Prosecutor's call for States to prosecute their nationals who are operating as foreign terrorist fighters in Libya resonates with the Council's own commitment to countering such actors. The Council has spoken clearly about the need to combat ISIL, including in Libya, and has created obligations in resolution 2178 (2014), which binds all Member States, whether or not they are parties to the Rome Statute, to prosecute foreign terrorist fighters. Member States have both an obligation to prosecute foreign terrorist fighters domestically and an obligation to afford one another the greatest measure of assistance in criminal investigations relating to support for terrorist acts. International cooperation and information exchange will be critical to effectively countering foreign terrorist fighters in Libya. We

welcome the commitment shown by the Prosecutor to supporting such efforts.

The instability and absence of State control in large parts of Libya make the pursuit of justice especially difficult. We recognize that the ability of the Prosecutor to expand investigations into other alleged crimes is hampered not only by the security situation but by a lack of resources. The Prosecutor is right to draw this Council's attention to that distinct barrier to her office pursuing investigations into ongoing crimes. In our view, the Council should support the mandates it gives to the Court. On matters of finances, it should defer to the General Assembly, which has the prerogative to decide on funding issues.

Despite the security challenges, we are pleased that the Prosecutor continues to receive cooperation from the Libyan Prosecutor General and the Libyan representative to the International Criminal Court (ICC), and that the memorandum of understanding is still being implemented. That groundwork should support Libya in meeting its obligation under resolution 1970 (2011) to cooperate fully with the Court. While Ms. Bensouda has not sought a review of the ICC's finding, which returned the prosecution of Al-Senussi to Libya, she is closely monitoring the domestic proceedings against him. Reports on those trials and allegations of torture in the detention centre where Al-Senussi is being held raised legitimate reasons for the Prosecutor to watch progress. We understand that Abdullah Al-Senussi will appeal his sentence, and we urge the Libyan authorities to ensure that due process requirements are followed.

We are concerned that despite its obligations to surrender him to the ICC, the Tripoli Court of Assize handed down a death sentence to Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi in July. While Libya has since provided a formal explanation to the Court, including explaining the unenforceability of such in absentia judgments, the larger issue of Al-Qadhafi's surrender remains outstanding. While we recognize the challenges that Libya faces, its obligations to the Court, which were created by a resolution of the Council, are clear. We welcome Ms. Bensouda's assurance that the Court stands ready to support Libya in fulfilling that obligation.

While the report is difficult reading, the Prosecutor's Office should be commended for continuing to bear witness before the Council to the crimes in Libya. The Prosecutor's briefing today, coming immediately before a briefing on the political situation in Libya, should reinvigorate the Council's commitment to a political settlement and stability in Libya. As the Prosecutor notes in her report, a unity Government and durable peace present new hope for Libya's efforts to promote the rule of law, the protection of civilians and an end to impunity for atrocity crimes.

Mr. Ramírez Carreño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, we reiterate our congratulations to Spain on the extraordinary job it did during its presidency last month, and we offer our full support to the incoming United Kingdom presidency so that it can complete its mandate successfully.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela thanks the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Ms. Fatou Bensouda, for her introduction of the tenth report on the investigation into the situation in Libya, submitted pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011), and we wish to acknowledge and commend her on her outstanding work in Libya despite the constraints she faces.

Venezuela reaffirms its support for the role of the International Criminal Court in strengthening the rule of law at the international level in order to prosecute those responsible for flagrant violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, in accordance with the provisions of the Rome Statute. As a State party to the International Criminal Court since 2002, my country supports strengthening its institutional stature and its effective functioning. In that regard, we call on those countries that are not parties to the Rome Statute to accede to that instrument in order to make it universal.

For Venezuela, cooperation is essential to attaining the objectives of the Court, and requires the commitment of States to implementing its decisions and supporting its work. Strengthening the international criminal justice system established under the International Criminal Court requires State parties to refrain from actions that undermine its important functions in the fight against impunity. While reaffirming the importance of the ICC, we are concerned by the procedural expedition of several past cases, owing to political reasons, and the involvement of the Security Council in the referral of cases the jurisdiction over which falls to the International Criminal Court. Such was the case with Libya, which highlights the partiality of certain decisions that should be the purview of the international community.

Politicization has a negative effect on the role of the International Criminal Court and could unbermine its autonomy, independence, objectivity and impartiality — principles that must govern the exercise of its responsibilities. There can be no double standards in those cases; cases tried by the International Criminal Court must be resolved within the institutional structure of the Court, with the participation of members of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute, and not outside of it.

The situation of political instability resulting from the institutional collapse of the Libyan State, triggered by the military intervention of NATO countries in 2011, has severely affected the rule of law in that Arab nation and, in particular, its legal system. The lack of institutions and the confrontations among factions vying for control of the country hinder the functioning of the State. In that situation, we cannot speak of the existence of a legal system in Libya that guarantees due process for and the human rights of persons who have allegedly committed crimes.

Libya is a country that has sunk into deep chaos and widespread violence, which have been exploited by terrorists from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham, Al-Qaida and Ansar Al-Sharia to expand their criminal agenda throughout the country and neighbouring nations. Summary executions, the evidence of torture of members of the Al-Qadhafi family — as in the case of Saadi Al-Qadhafi — and former members of the Government of President Muammar Al-Qadhafi are part of a policy of cruel retaliation, in clear violation of the rule of law. The disappearance and persecution of human rights activists are glaring reminders of the ongoing violations of human rights that are recorded daily in Libya, to the detriment of its citizens — which would be hard to imagine if there were the rule of law to ensure due process to those tried for various crimes.

Venezuela therefore rejects the decision of the Tripoli Court of Assize last July, condemning Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi, Abdullah Al-Senussi and other Libyan citizens to death in absentia, because there are no procedural safeguards to ensure a fair trial. That verdict has been rejected at the international level by various organizations, including the Human Rights Council. We therefore call on the Libyan authorities to cooperate with the International Criminal Court in order to transfer Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi to The Hague, so that he can be brought to trial with due process and full respect for his human rights. Libya must ensure the implementation of resolution 1970 (2011), facilitating the transfer of Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi to the ICC.

Paragraph 5 of resolution 1970 (2011) urges Libya and all States and concerned regional and other international organizations to cooperate fully with the Court and the Prosecutor, as ratified by resolutions 2174 (2014) and 2213 (2015), reiterating Libya's obligation to comply in full cooperation with the Court and to surrender Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi to the immediate custody of the International Criminal Code, in order for him to be tried.

Although Mr. Bernardino León, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya, has made significant efforts to promote an agreement, to date the institutional structure of the country has not yet recovered, nor have new institutions been established. Therefore, we cannot speak of the implementation of justice where existing standards do not ensure citizens the equal protection under the law.

Venezuela reiterates that inclusive political dialogue and the establishment of a Government of national unity are the bases for building a rule of law with solid legal institutions, through which we can ensure the promotion of and respect for human rights, including international standards of due process, the right to defence and the presumption of innocence as fundamental procedural guarantees.

In conclusion, we reiterate our full support for the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary General, Mr. Bernardino León — which we will extend to his successor Mr. Kobler — to attain a political solution and thereby ensure the restoration of peace to that brother African country, which is indispensable to rebuilding the institutional foundations destroyed by the war and foreign intervention in 2011, the aftermath of which continues to be felt today with the deplorable scenario of a fractured country fallen prey to terrorist groups, and of a population thirsting for peace and tranquillity.

Mrs. Juodkaitė Putrimienė (Lithuania): I wish to congratulate the United Kingdom on assuming the presidency of the Council for the month of November, and to thank Spain for its excellent work in presiding over the Council in October.

I would like to thank Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), for her latest report on Libya and for her briefing today.

Lithuania remains deeply concerned about the ongoing conflict in Libya. Human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law continue across Libya. All parties to the conflict have to refrain from committing atrocities and take all necessary measures to prevent the commission of such crimes. We are seriously concerned about the continuous threats to human rights defenders, media workers and journalists. Many human rights defenders and journalists have fled the country, fallen silent or operate underground because of the continued attacks, threats and intimidation, abductions and arbitrary detentions. We encourage the Prosecutor and her Office to continue to monitor this situation closely. Furthermore, the barbaric crimes perpetrated by Daesh and similar groups, including massive executions, may constitute crimes under the Court's jurisdiction and have to be further monitored by the Prosecutor.

We appreciate the Prosecutor's efforts to highlight the plight of internally displaced persons and, in particular, the situation of the Tawerghans. We welcome the meeting of the Misrata/Tawergha Joint Committee, held in Tunis early in September. The agreement to develop their return strategies and plans for reparations is a positive development. Ensuring the safe return and protection of the Tawerghans should be seen as an important element of national reconciliation.

Lithuania also welcomes and supports the ongoing dialogue on cooperation and burden-sharing between the Government of Libya and the Office of the Prosecutor. We would like to underline the importance of continuing such judicial cooperation in order to address impunity for atrocities, including through the implementation of the memorandum of understanding on burden-sharing regarding investigations and prosecutions in Libya.

Lithuania thanks the Prosecutor for her update on the cases against Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi. Libya should uphold its legal obligations and surrender Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi to the International Criminal Court. With regard to the verdicts and sentences announced in Tripoli last July against Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi and other Qadhafi officials, we call on Libya to ensure that these steps do not undermine its responsibility and obligation to cooperate with the Court. We also note that the Prosecutor's Office will continue to monitor and collect information on the progress of the proceedings against Abdullah Al-Senussi. We are concerned about the allegations of torture and inhuman treatment during interrogation sessions at the Al-Habda prison, where Al-Senussi is also being held. We encourage the Libyan authorities to take measures to put an end to degrading treatment and torture, if such acts do occur, and to investigate and punish those responsible.

Allow me to conclude by expressing our gratitude to Prosecutor Bensouda for her dedicated work and for the tireless efforts of the International Criminal Court in dealing with enormously difficult cases. Let me underline that combating impunity is an obligation of the entire international community. Therefore, the United Nations has to ensure that adequate resources are available for investigating the situations referred to the Court by the Security Council.

Ms. Sison (United States of America): I would like to thank Prosecutor Bensouda for the briefing on the work of her Office to help end impunity for atrocity crimes in Libya.

In the past few months in particular, Libyans have engaged constructively with the political dialogue process facilitated by Special Representative of the Secretary-General Bernardino León, and have taken important steps towards finalizing a political settlement and establishing a Government of national accord. However, it is critical that the parties endorse the political agreement and establish a unity Government now, without delay. Libya cannot lose this opportunity and the international community needs a Government partner in Libya.

As Secretary John Kerry said, finalizing this arrangement can help return Libya to a path of peace, stability and prosperity, and the United States stands ready to support a new Government of national accord. Libya's political strife has exacerbated existing humanitarian, economic and security challenges, while the lack of effective domestic accountability mechanisms has allowed militias and armed groups to operate unrestrained, committing serious human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law against ordinary Libyans. In particular, those who try to shed light on these abuses, especially civil society activists, media actors and female human rights defenders, have been singled out, forcing them to either leave Libya or go underground.

We commend the efforts of those who are documenting these abuses and violations, including in the many detention facilities throughout Libya,

recognizing that the continued violence and instability in Libya make such work all the more dangerous but ever more important. The United States remains deeply concerned about the growing presence in Libya of groups aligned with the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and other extremists. We strongly condemn the ongoing violent acts against civilians by these groups in Sirte, Derna and Benghazi. All of these abuses highlight the stakes of the conflict in Libya and the urgent need to establish a Government of national accord, which can be a constructive partner in addressing all of these challenges, as well as irregular migration and other regional challenges, and develop the strong institutions in international partnerships that Libya needs.

The Council has called for those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights in Libya to be held to account. This is absolutely critical to the way forward in Libya. We must seek justice, not only for crimes committed by the Al-Qadhafi regime but, as new events have arisen in Libya, we must also purse justice for crimes committed by ISIL-aligned groups and other extremists. That is one reason that a strong and unified Libyan Government is so urgently needed, so that the extremist threat can be adequately addressed, including through domestic Libyan prosecution. We also encourage other relevant States to prosecute foreign fighters involved with such groups for atrocity and other crimes, where appropriate.

With respect to the situation before the International Criminal Court, we continue to support the Council's unified call for Libya to fulfil its obligation to cooperate with and provide assistance to the Court and the Prosecutor. We note,in particular, Libya's obligation to transfer Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi to the ICC, and we urge Libya to refrain from any further proceedings against Al-Qadhafi that would pose any obstacle to his transfer to the Court. We also continue to stress, more generally, that national proceedings in Libya should be conducted in full compliance with Libya's international obligations.

To achieve national reconciliation, it will be important to ensure the confidence of all Libyan citizens in their Government's commitment to due process and the rule of law, and that those responsible for serious crimes are held accountable. As Libya and the international community work towards a political agreement, we cannot forget that accountability for crimes in Libya will be key to achieving lasting peace and stability.

I thank Prosecutor Bensouda and her Office, once again, for their work over the past six months and since 2011, when the Council referred the situation in Libya to the ICC. The United States looks forward to continuing to work with the Council, the ICC, a new Government of national accord and others to end the violence, promote justice and build sustainable peace in Libya.

Mr. Zagaynov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): At the outset, we, too, would like to thank the delegation of Spain for having led the work of the Council in October and wish the current President every success this month.

We have taken note of the tenth report of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) regarding the investigation of the situation in Libya, and we thank Ms. Bensouda for her comments.

In 2011, when the Security Council decided to refer the Libyan situation to the ICC, a number of our colleagues said that involving the Court would help to end the wave of violence, bring to justice to all those guilty of the worst crimes, and thereby prevent future crimes. Unfortunately, as the report confirms, that did not happen. The situation in the country did not stabilize and the increase in violence continues. The horrendous list of crimes in the Prosecutor's report is not growing any shorter. It includes the abduction and murder of civilians, illegal arrests and detention, the torture of detainees, to which we must now add the mass executions and other evil deeds committed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

We have studied the information in the report regarding the individuals active in the Libyan case. The Prosecutor of the ICC reiterated that it intends to handle the situation of Abdullah Al-Senussi and, if required, to request a review of the Court's ruling pronouncing Libya capable of conducting an investigation in that case. In that regard, the report again concludes that there are insufficient grounds to transmit such a request, despite the information regarding the practice of torture and sexual violence in prison and despite the death sentence imposed on Abdullah Al-Senussi on 28 July by the court in Tripoli.

To strengthen the Court's standing, its ability to conduct unbiased investigations of the actions of all the parties to a conflict, including in Libya, is of

key importance. No significant steps forward have been noted in that regard. As we have noted, there is sufficient information regarding alleged crimes, not only by former partisans of Muammar Al-Qadhaffi but by other participants to the conflict, including the rebels and now, of course, ISIL. However, the report does not refer to any real procedural steps concerning them. We have only dry statistics and lists of figures regarding civilian deaths. Russia hopes that in the future the Court will address this more concretely. The calls for continued investigations of civilian deaths resulting from NATO air strikes also went unheard.

We take note of information in the report regarding cooperation between the Libyan authorities and the Prosecutor of the ICC. In that context, I would like to stress the importance of forging and strengthening cooperation with those States in which investigations are conducted for the successful discharge of the Court's mandate. We have noted that, in her comments today, the Prosecutor referred to so-called atrocity crimes. As is well known, neither the Rome Statute nor the corpus of international law contains or has defined such a category of crime. In that respect, we consider it important to adhere to the terminology agreed by States, including within the framework of work on the Rome Statute.

By way of conclusion, we hope that the Prosecutor of the ICC, within the framework of further procedural steps, will take into full account the need for a settlement in Libya, whose foundation should be the restoration of statehood and a process of national reconciliation, and which should also pay due attention to investigating crimes committed by all sides to the conflict.

Mr. González de Linares Palou (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like, at the outset, to thank you, Sir, and through you to thank all our colleagues for their very kind words regarding Spain's recent presidency of the Council. I wish to assure you and your entire team, Mr. President, of our full support during your mandate. You know you can count on our full support.

I would also like to express our thanks to the Prosecuor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for her presence here today and for the full and detailed briefing she provided on the situation in Libya. Spain wishes to commend the very valuable work of the Court and in particular of the Prosecutor. We know that she is working under very difficult conditions for the members of her Office. We also wish to express our support for her investigations of the crimes currently being committed in Libya and to offer our cooperation in that regard.

The unanimous message conveyed by the adoption of resolution of 1970 (2011) must not be allowed to remain mere words. The Security Council has reiterated on numerous occasions and in its resolutions the importance of holding those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights accountable for their actions. We cannot tolerate impunity. It is incompatible with true reconciliation and sustainable peace. Nor can we be indifferent to the horrors that the people of Libya are suffering on a daily basis or to the contempt all parties to the conflict have shown for international law. Reports of indiscriminate attacks on the civilian population, including abductions, assassinations, illegal arrests, torture and other crimes, is disheartening. Spain firmly condemn each and every one of those barbaric acts, with particular stress on the particularly cruel acts of Daesh and its affiliates. Once again, we call on all parties and their allies to comply with their obligations under international law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law.

With regard to the relationship between Libya and the International Criminal Court, we are grateful for the updated information on the case of Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi and the case of Abdullah Al-Senussi. Concerning the former, we wish to recall the decision by the Court's Pre-Trial Chamber I, of 10 December 2014, noting Libya's non-cooperation, in particular with respect to handing over Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi to the Court. We strongly condemn the continuation of his trial in the Libyan courts and the death penalty imposed on him on 28 July. We repeat that he must be immediately handed over to the International Criminal Court in accordance with the obligations under resolution 1970 (2011) and other resolutions of the Council, which reiterate that compliance is mandatory. The foregoing does not detract from the value of the ongoing dialogue between the Libyan Government and the International Criminal Court and the cooperation taking place in implementing the memorandum of understanding of 2013, especially by the Prosecutor General and the representative of Libya to the Court.

Turning now to the second situation, the case of Abdullah Al-Senussi, we are concerned that he was condemned to death and about the allegations that torture was used during his interrogation. We will closely follow the information provided by the Prosecutor and

we note the possibility that the Court may review its decision with respect to the admissibility of his case in accordance with the provisions of the Rome Statute.

Let me now turn briefly to the resources available to the Office of the Prosecutor. We note that the current scarcity of resources is making it difficult for the Office to conduct its investigations. We should remember once again that the costs of referrals are being covered only by States parties to the Rome Statute and that article 13 of the relationship agreement between the United Nations and the ICC has still not been implemented.

In conclusion, we are absolutely convinced that there is no military solution to the crisis in Libya. Only a political agreement among the parties can guarantee the stability that the country needs. We support the efforts of the United Nations and of Special Representative of the Secretary-General Bernardino León. We welcome the appointment of Mr. Martin Kobler as the new Special Representative. We reiterate our call to all parties to refrain from all acts of violence. We furthermore call on them, in a spirit of reconciliation, to conclude the process of dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations. That will enable them to approve the political agreement that will permit the formation of a Government of national accord that can establish the basis for the country's reconstruction. Such an agreement will also help restore to the Libyan people the stability and security that can guarantee the rule of law, the end of impunity, justice for victims and the protection of the fundamental rights of all the country's inhabitants.

Mr. Hmoud (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to extend my thanks to Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), for her briefing and for the tenth report submitted to the Security Council pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011). Jordan reiterates its support for the ICC, which is a critical pillar in the promotion of criminal justice. Its work contributes to putting an end to impunity during armed conflicts, maintaining international peace and security and promoting the rule of law.

We welcome the ongoing consultations between the Libyan Government and the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC. We affirm that the Court will succeed in undertaking and discharging its mandate pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011), which depends largely on cooperation between the two sides. In this respect, we appreciate all the efforts made by the Libyan Government to cooperate with the Court so far. We call on the Libyan Government to continue to provide all the facilities and logistical support necessary to collect evidence and conduct investigations and ensure coordination and information exchange as well as the arrest and surrender of all perpetrators of crimes.

It is imperative that all parties to the Rome Statute cooperate with and assist the Court in the discharge of its mandate and in support of its jurisdiction, in accordance with their obligations under the Statute. The scale of the challenges faced by Libya today is daunting, and we see the negative repercussions of these challenges on neighbouring countries. The numbers of the displaced and asylum seekers are increasing in view of the atrocious, inhumane practices that are taking place in the country, namely, killing, kidnapping, torture, arbitrary arrest by criminal and armed groups, in particular the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

It is crucial that Libya continue to promote the rule of law and ensure that all perpetrators of crime be held liable without exception, in accordance with international standards in the areas of prosecution and justice, with a view to ensuring stability in the country and supporting the political process there. We need to assist Libya in confronting and prosecuting the perpetrators of crimes committed on its territory, and should provide the country with every possible means to address these crimes, which are affecting not just Libya but all of its neighbours as well.

In conclusion, we reiterate the need for the international community to provide every type of support to the constitutional and other legitimate authorities in the country so that they can meet their obligation to build a new democratic Libya while taking into account the need for all actors to work together to enable the Libyan State to assert control and sovereignty over the entire territory of Libya.

Mrs. Adnin (Malaysia): I thank Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for presenting her tenth report on Libya pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011). Since Prosecutor Bensouda's last briefing to the Security Council, in May earlier this year (see S/PV.7441), the political situation in Libya has not shown much improvement while the security conditions have worsened. According to the Prosecutor's report, civilian deaths increased in the period running from April to August 2015, abductions and executions continue to be reported, and the number

of displaced persons has reached almost 450,000 people, which is close to double the figure reported just over a year ago.

We are particularly concerned by the Prosecutor's report that extremely grave crimes are being committed not only by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Islamic groups but also by all parties to the conflict as well as their respective allies. The indiscriminate attacks, assassinations, large-scale abductions, acts of torture, and executions have all led to civilian casualties. At the same time, heavy military clashes between the conflicting parties have also continued to cause civilian deaths, with no signs of abating.

Malaysia is equally concerned that civilian casualties attributed to ISIL are consistently growing. The Prosecutor has reported that mass executions, suicide bombing and terrorist attacks committed by ISIL and affiliated groups have resulted in heavy civilian casualties. We strongly deplore these indiscriminate acts of violence committed by ISIL. Malaysia reaffirms that the perpetrators responsible for committing these grave atrocities must be held accountable. The culture of impunity must not be allowed to prevail any further.

Malaysia is of the view that the continued efforts of the Libyan authorities to comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions would contribute positively towards building trust and confidence, especially with respect to their commitment to hold to account individuals and parties responsible for grave violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. At the same time, we acknowledge that the ability of the Libyan authorities to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of these atrocity crimes and to continue its cooperation will depend largely on the stability of Libya.

In this regard, Malaysia reiterates the importance for all parties to the conflict to engage constructively in the ongoing dialogue facilitated by the United Nations, finalize the political agreement and immediately agree on a Government of National Accord. We are of the view that the formation of a Government of national accord that enjoys the full backing of the international community is a crucial first step in our collective efforts to address a wide range of challenges currently being faced by Libya, including combating impunity, addressing the humanitarian conditions and promoting the rule of law in the country.

I would like to conclude by taking this opportunity to express our gratitude to Mr. Bernardino León for his tireless efforts in facilitating the ongoing peace talks under very difficult circumstances in Libya. I reiterate our full support for the dialogue process facilitated by the United Nations and look forward to working closing with the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Mr. Martin Kobler.

Mr. Zhao Yong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I wish to thank Ms. Bensouda for her briefing.

China has been closely watching the developments in Libya. The fundamental way to resolve the Libyan issue lies in political dialogue, and any settlement should respect the will and choice of the Libyan people and maintain the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the country.

China hopes that the parties concerned in Libya will prioritize the interests of the Libyan nation and its people, seize the opportunity presented, value the results of dialogue already achieved and continue to engage in negotiation and consultation to ease differences, with a view to reaching an early political agreement to establish a Government of national accord and restoring national security and stability. That is the prerequisite and foundation for the realization of judicial justice in Libya.

China's position with regard to international judicial institutions remains unchanged.

Mr. Stehelin (France) (*spoke in French*): I would like to begin by congratulating the Spanish delegation on its outstanding leadership last month and assure you, Mr. President, of the French delegation's full support in your work.

At the outset, I would like to thank Prosecutor Bensouda for her tenth report and her briefing, and to affirm France's support for the Prosecutor and the International Criminal Court (ICC) as a whole. While the Council was able to adopt resolution 1970 (2011) unanimously, giving the ICC one of the most important tasks there can be, Ms. Bensouda's briefing confirms the importance of ensuring that the Council remain mobilized to help Libya — which is still going through a period of instability and uncertainty whose chief victims are Libyans themselves — get back on a path to civic peace and justice. A careful reading of her tenth report compels three conclusions.

The first is the importance of continuing to appeal to the Libyan authorities to cooperate with the Court above all. That cooperation will be crucial to ending a long period of impunity in Libya and enabling the Court to fulfil its mandate. The Court had jurisdiction to try Mr. Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi and requested his surrender to the Court in accordance with the arrest warrant issued on 27 June 2011. The Tripoli Court of Assize's death sentence for Mr. Al-Qadhafi, handed down on 28 July, is doubly regrettable in that regard, and the Security Council must step up its efforts to ensure that Mr. Al-Qadhafi is surrendered to the Court. Resolution 2238 (2015) of 10 September also takes due note of the request of the Prosecutor to the Pre-Trial Chamber dated 30 July that Libya immediately surrender Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi to the Court.

Concerning Abdullah Al-Senussi, on 11 October 2013 Pre-Trial Chamber I decided that his case was inadmissible before the Court. However, France shares the concerns expressed by several of our colleagues and the Office of the Prosecutor about the allegations of torture of Mr. Al-Senussi in Al-Hadba prison. Here we should recall the relevant provisions of resolution 2238 (2015), which condemns the acts of torture, mistreatment and deaths by torture inflicted in some detention centres in Libya. We should also note the pronouncements made on 28 July by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding lack of respect for the right to a fair trial as guaranteed by international law. The Prosecutor's Office emphasizes that if those allegations are true, they could justify a reopening of the case on the basis of the relevant articles of the Rome Statute. We should all remain very vigilant on this point.

France notes that despite the prevailing instability in Libya, the Prosecutor has managed to have discussions with Libya's Prosecutor General and has continued to implement the memorandum of understanding on burden-sharing between the Court and the Libyan authorities, signed in November 2013, and she notes that this is a positive and encouraging sign.

Our second conclusion is that we cannot allow the multiple crimes committed since 15 February 2011 to go unpunished. In that regard, France paid particularly close attention to the paragraph in the report that emphasizes that the crimes attributed to members of Daesh fall under the prima facie jurisdiction of the Court, on the basis of resolutions 2213 (2015) and 2238 (2015). We can only encourage Prosecutor Bensouda to pursue her investigations and inquiries into such crimes, which are an outrage to the human conscience.

Our third and last conclusion is that we must provide practical support to the Libyan authorities, particularly in the area of justice and rebuilding the rule of law. That goal makes the formation of a Government of national unity more urgent than ever. After months of negotiations, and thanks to the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Bernardino León, a compromise on a final text was reached and capped by the announcement of the formation of a national unity Government headed by Mr. Fayez Sarraj as Prime Minister. There is no time left to lose. We urge all the parties to endorse the political agreement in order to immediately enable the formation of a Government of national unity. That is the only way that peace and stability can be restored in Libya, as its people are demanding.

In that regard, we welcome the appointment of Mr. Martin Kobler as Special Representative of the Secretary-General. France reaffirms its full support for the United Nations mediation in Libya and will support the efforts of Mr. Kobler as it has those of Mr. León, whom we thank for his work. Through tenacity and dedication he has succeeded in making major steps towards an inter-Libyan agreement.

The challenges and expectations in Libya are still huge, both for the International Criminal Court and the Libyan authorities. The Prosecutor has demonstrated her full willingness to act. It is up to the Council to do everything possible to facilitate the success of an inter-Libyan political dialogue and to help the Libyan authorities cooperate fully with the Prosecutor.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of the United Kingdom.

I thank the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for her tenth report on Libya and for her statement today.

I join others in expressing our deep concern about the ongoing conflict in Libya. The lack of security is having a clear adverse impact on the Prosecutor's investigation. The United Kingdom shares the Prosecutor's concerns set out in her report. Extremely grave crimes are still being committed by all parties and their allies. Civilian deaths are still increasing, and violence is still being used to try to achieve political goals. We condemn all these acts. We echo the Prosecutor's call for States to investigate and take action against nationals of their

countries who may have committed crimes in Libya. The violence must stop; there can be no military solution to the current crisis. We call on all Libyans, political parties and civil society alike, to support the ongoing efforts of the United Nations. A political settlement establishing a Government of national accord is long overdue. A political settlement remains the best way to bring peace and security to the Libyan people and to tackle the terrorist and extremist threat.

Tackling impunity for atrocities will also be important in the coming months. Judicial cooperation between the Office and Libyan authorities is vital in that regard. We encourage the Libyan Prosecutor General and the Libyan representative to the Court to continue to engage with the Prosecutor. We also urge all States to support the Prosecutor in her investigation and to assist the Libyan authorities in their efforts to build the rule of law.

We thank the Prosecutor for her briefing on the cases against Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi. We are concerned about the reports of torture and inhumane acts in Al-Hadba prison, and we support the action taken by the Prosecutor with the Libyan authorities. We note that the Prosecutor's Office is still of the view that the case against Mr. Al-Senussi remains inadmissible. We are also concerned about the death sentence handed down to Mr. Al-Qadhafi. Libya has failed to comply with requests for cooperation by the ICC, including its request for Mr. Al-Qadhafi's surrender. We reiterate that Libya is obliged to cooperate fully with the ICC and the Prosecutor, as set out in resolutions 2213 (2015) and 2238 (2015), and we call on Libya to surrender Mr. Al-Qadhafi without delay. We look forward to the Prosecutor's further views following receipt of the report of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya on Mr. Al-Qadhafi and Mr. Al-Senussi's trials, the full judgement of the Libyan court and other relevant information.

We note the Prosecutor's concerns regarding resources and recognize the financial and capacity constraints faced by her Office. We are working to arrive at a budget outcome that will both meet the needs of the Court and be sensitive to the resources available.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I now give the floor to the representative of Libya.

Mr. Dabbashi (Libya) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency for the month of November. I would also like to thank Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), for her important briefing this morning.

To be honest, I do not have much to add to what I said at the Council's 7441st meeting of 12 May. I would, however, like to reaffirm that Libya is wedded to the principle of complementarity among issues addressed at the national level and by the ICC, despite the fact that we are not a party to the Rome Statute. That is because we wish to see justice prevail and confront impunity, especially regarding crimes covered under the Rome Statute.

I can confirm that Libya's judicial institutions are committed to fulfilling their obligations under national and international law, despite the dangers and pressure they find themselves in, particularly the Office of Libya's Prosecutor General, which is based in an area that is controlled not by the State but by militias. In that regard, it is necessary to point out that the Ministry of Justice of the provisional Libyan Government announced its rejection of the sentence, issued on 28 July, by the Court of Assize with regard to the former officials of the Al-Qadhafi regime. The Government does not believe that one can talk about independent justice or a fair trial when trials are held in regions controlled by outlaw militias.

The Libyan authorities want to guarantee accountability, fight against impunity and strengthen the rule of law. They have repeatedly reaffirmed their commitment to investigate all crimes committed and to punish those responsible. The Libyan Government condemns all human rights violations, regardless of who the perpetrators are. However, the Government would like to emphasize that no Libyan Government will be in a position to control the security situation and ensure respect for human rights and justice as long as the capital, Tripoli, is occupied by outlaw militias. The Government will remain unable to successfully carry out its mission as long as its institutions cannot work in a climate of security. The prisons will not submit themselves to the authority of the State as long as resolution 2214 (2015) is not implemented and as long as Libyan army units and security elements are not in a position to obtain weapons.

In spite of the foregoing, the Government of Libya welcomes the continued cooperation between the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court and the Office of the Prosecutor-General of Libya.

Before I conclude, I would like to draw the Council's attention to the following. In various statements delivered by a number of Council members we heard that there was racial discrimination in Libya. There was a reference to the detention of our sub-Saharan brothers as a result of the colour of their skin. That is wrong and does not exist in Libya. Differences in skin colour mean nothing in Libya, especially since a large number of Libyan citizens are black. They have always held high positions and it is enough for me to point out that the Head of the Libyan Government is black. The same is true for the Head of the Libyan Air Force. To claim anything else is simply wrong. Unfortunately, those rumours started in 2011, at the beginning of the revolution, when Al-Qadhafi enlisted a number of sub-Saharan workers to face down the revolution. That was later used to undermine Libya and its relations with other African States. Those who entered the country legally were protected from human traffickers and violence. There are tens of thousands of African brothers who live and work in Libya under the protection of Libyan families.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7550

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7550th meeting

Thursday, 5 November 2015, 11.10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Rycroft	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Zhao Yong
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Jordan	Mrs. Kawar
	Lithuania	Mrs. Jakubonė
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Nigeria	Mr. Adamu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Spain	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi
	United States of America	Ms. Power
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

The situation in Libya

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15-35206 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Libya

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Libya to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Bernardino León, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I now give the floor to Mr. León.

Mr. León: Since the high-level meeting on Libya that took place on the margins of the General Assembly on 2 October, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) convened what should have been a final round of talks in Skhirat, Morocco, to facilitate Libyan deliberations on the composition of the presidency council that would lead the country's future Government of national accord.

After four days of intensive consultations, which concluded on 8 October, members of the Libyan political process succeeded in forging consensus on a list of six nominees, including a Prime Minister-designate, three deputy Prime Ministers and two Senior Ministers. The proposed composition of the presidency council was seen as a means of securing the necessary consensus and inclusivity that would allow for a Government of national accord to assume office with the requisite support and backing of all relevant political and security stakeholders, as well as the Libyan public at large. While the proposal was hailed as a major breakthrough in the dialogue process, strong objections were voiced in some quarters, notably from within the House of Representatives, for what was perceived as inadequate representation for the east, particularly Benghazi.

In the three weeks that followed the announcement of the proposed composition of the presidency council, the United Nations has consulted closely with parties from across the political spectrum in an effort to resolve outstanding concerns regarding representation. In this regard, there appears to be growing support to the idea of expanding the presidency council as a means of consolidating and safeguarding Libya's historical traditions of geographical and regional balance and representation.

Despite the adoption of the 21 October constitutional timeline by which we had hoped that a final political settlement would be agreed and endorsed by the main political stakeholders, there is yet to be a formal and final pronouncement by either of the main political stakeholders on the Libyan political agreement and the proposed presidency council. Working closely with representatives of the international community, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya continued to impress upon both the Libyan House of Representatives and the Tripoli-based General National Congress the need to urgently convene sessions that would allow for a democratic vote on the political agreement and proposals for the presidency council.

From the moment of its inception, the United Nations-facilitated Libyan political dialogue process has always been predicated on the assumption that it would be inclusive of all parties and that any solution put forward would have to be viable and comprehensive such that it would bring to an end the bitter political institutional divide that has been at the heart of the conflict that has brought much destruction and suffering to Libya and its people. While I have always remained hopeful about the chances of Libya's leaders reaching a peaceful agreement, I have had no illusions about the difficulties and challenges that would likely face the political dialogue process.

As I have noted on numerous occasions before the Council, there can be no viable peace in Libya without the constructive engagement and buy-in of all the parties. Forging a meaningful consensus and arriving at a balanced political agreement was likely to be a protracted and difficult process. Success would always be dependent on the parties' collective endorsement of an agreement. Likewise, Libyan ownership of the dialogue process and of its outcomes has been at the heart of the United Nations mediation efforts. This is a principle that is simply non-negotiable.

But the magnitude of the dangers facing Libya should also not be underestimated. This is a message that I continue to reiterate to all the parties in Libya, including to the leaderships of both the House of Representatives and the General National Congress. The country's economic and finances are already showing signs of fatigue and rapid decline. The absence

of effective authority is manifesting itself in growing insecurity and criminality across many parts of the country. The growing influence of terrorist and other extremist groups is posing a direct threat to the very authority of the Libyan State. The cruelty and barbarity witnessed in areas under their control are an omen of what may yet come unless there is united action to contain and eliminate this growing threat.

Equally important is the scale of the human suffering. The political and military conflict has exacted a heavy toll on the Libyan people. Death and displacement have become an all-too common theme, particularly in Benghazi, which has for the longest duration borne the brunt of the conflict in Libya. Massive displacement of population, the destruction of entire civilian neighbourhoods and vital infrastructure, and large-scale human rights abuses that continue to take place on a regular basis have scarred the city beyond recognition. The cowardly targeting by terrorists of peaceful demonstrators in the city on 23 October was an urgent reminder of the need to expedite efforts towards peace, and that restoring peace and stability to Benghazi will be the first step towards stabilizing Libya. Illegal migration and human trafficking, the disruption to basic services and shortages in food and medicines have also added another important dimension to the human suffering unfolding in Libya.

I wish to take this opportunity to remind Libya's leaders, particularly the leaderships of both the House of Representatives and the General National Congress, that they shoulder a political and moral responsibility to draw the Libyan dialogue process to a successful conclusion. There can be no further justification for delaying any longer a vote by their respective memberships on the outcome of the dialogue process. In this regard, a majority of members within both the House of Representatives and the General National Congress have signed letters stating clearly their determination to endorse the outcomes of the political dialogue process. The respective leaderships of both houses have an obligation to take note, uphold the democratic principles which they have been entrusted with, and facilitate a debate and vote on the issue in accordance with existing rules of procedure and without threat or intimidation.

In the interest of upholding the democratic process and ensuring institutional unity, I urge the respective leadership of the House of Representatives and of the General National Congress to listen to calls within their respective houses, and those of the Libyan people, and to desist from any further attempts and manoeuvring to obstruct the democratic process and undermine the achievements of the dialogue process.

The same message has also been echoed across the spectrum of Libya's political and civil society, including by participants from the different tracks of the Libyan political dialogue process, as well as by numerous armed groups that have been party to the military conflict over the past year. Among all there is a growing sense of urgency and an insistence that the country should no longer be held hostage to the narrow interests of a few on either side of the political divide.

Libya's leaders have a unique opportunity to reach a political settlement that spares their country and their people further bloodshed and destruction. The political agreement negotiated within the framework of the dialogue process is the result of a year-long complex process of negotiations and compromises that have sought to create a viable middle ground on which all Libyans can meet. The proposed agreement was never intended to provide a panacea for all of Libya's problems, but rather to lay out a set of structures and principles that would guide the next phase of Libya's political transition until such time as the constitution-making process was completed. I therefore call on Libya's leaders to uphold Libya's higher national interests and safeguard their country's national unity, independence and territorial integrity. They owe that to their country and to the Libyan people.

The next few days will be critical to Libya's future. While the United Nations will continue to encourage the two main political stakeholders to formally endorse the political agreement and the proposed composition of the presidency council, it will also continue working with the moderate voices from the different dialogue tracks and from across Libya's political and civil society spectrum, as well as those among security actors, for the sake of forging a viable way forward.

The United Nations and the international community must also be prepared to move quickly in mobilizing support for a future Libyan Government of national accord. The task facing any such Government will be daunting, and the technical, human and material resources needed to address existing challenges would be beyond the capacities of Libya's much-weakened State institutions. In reassuring Libya's leaders of the international community's commitment and determination to undertake every effort to provide

the requisite support and assistance to a future Libyan Government of national accord, they must be reminded that the onus is now on them to forge a new political reality and bring about a decisive and permanent end to their country's political turmoil and armed conflict.

The President: I thank Mr. León for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Libya.

Mr. Dabbashi (Libya) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to thank Mr. Bernardino León, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his important briefing. I also thank him and his team for their efforts over the past year to facilitate the dialogue among the Libyan parties and the establishment of a Government of national accord that represents all Libyans and places the interests of the country above all other considerations. There is no doubt that, thanks to those efforts, we are considerably closer to that goal, in spite of the exceedingly difficult conditions under which they have had to work. As his mandate comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his efforts to re-establish stability in Libya and safeguard the unity and sovereignty of my country. I wish him every success in future.

We have taken note of media reports that the Secretary-General has appointed a new Special Representative to replace Mr. León. We hope that the way he has been named will not pose an obstacle to his work. We also hope that he will be accepted by the Libyan parties and that he will be able to continue the work begun by his predecessor in order to move forward towards concluding the mission.

On 30 September, Mr. Agila Saleh Essa Gwaider, President of the General National Council, stated before the General Assembly:

> "the vast majority [of the Libyan people are] seeking any possible means to put an end to the unjustified fighting among brothers, and restore the security and stability of the country. Nevertheless, they are hostage to the armed groups, and thus unable to express their views."

He also stated that

> "[h]undreds of thousands of Libyans have become internally displaced persons or refugees aspiring to return to their homes as soon as possible. That could be fulfilled only through an agreement on a strong Government that enjoys the confidence of all Libyans, controls all of the Libyan territory and is supported by the international community." (*A/70/PV.20, pp. 18-19*)

In that way, the President candidly expressed the feelings of the Libyan people, who can no longer stand the noise of bullets and shells, can no longer bear the smell of gunpowder and blood — and who can no longer bear foreign interference. Will the Security Council help them? Some Libyans doubt it, given their experience in the dialogue and because of the many steps backward. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that the Libyan political dialogue is reaching an end and that the establishment of a Government of national accord is imminent, perhaps before the end of this month.

In spite of all that, however, neither the Council nor the Special Representative of the Secretary-General has expressed a clear position to say that those who oppose the agreement and who support terrorism will have neither a place in the Government of national accord nor in the State institutions that emerge from the political agreement. Nor have we heard any serious positions with regard to ensuring a secure environment to allow the Government to begin its work from its institutions based in Tripoli.

Unfortunately, it seems that some in the United Nations Support Mission in Libya still think they can benefit from the support of militias to protect the Government, seemingly unaware of the fact that militias have blackmailed every single Government of the past four years. The Libyan people reject the idea of having these militias play any role whatsoever in the area of security, except for those of their members who agree to join the army or the police, following the required medical examinations and appropriate training.

Protecting Government and State institutions that are accepted by all must be done through the creation of a neutral special force composed of officers and elements of the army and the police — professional elements who have proved that they have not been involved in any illegal activities. They could then in future be deployed to Tripoli to carry out a disarmament programme. In addition, bonuses must no longer be paid to any members of the militia who have not laid down their arms.

The Security Council must once and for all disabuse itself of the notion, which a number of States within the Council are attempting to foster, that groups such as Ansar Al-Sharia, Al-Qaida and those who call themselves the revolutionary councils of Darna,

Benghazi and Ajdabiya are going to fight against Daesh. The Council must bring pressure to bear on all parties to the dialogue to ensure that they clearly state their opposition to the terrorist groups. An end must be put to their financing by the Central Bank of Libya through what is called the Ministry of Defence of Tripoli. The flow of weapons and foreign fighters towards the militias must also come to an end.

Genuine stability in Libya cannot be achieved through foreign interference on Libyan territory. That will come about only as a result of support for the rehabilitation and deployment of police forces through the cantonment of elements of the army and its restructuring, rehabilitation and arming, so as to enable it to combat terrorism and uphold security, including on the borders.

Any attempt to hamper any of these efforts can be due only to a determination to sow the seeds of despair among Libyans, with a view to badgering them into accepting foreign military intervention, which will have as its inevitable result the occupation and division of Libya.

By way of conclusion, I wish to state that the power vacuum resulting from the fall of the dictatorship can be remedied only through the holding of presidential elections at the earliest possible time. This can happen only if the international community devotes the necessary attention to the work of the constitutional drafting committee and if it helps it to overcome the minor obstacles — I repeat, the minor obstacles — on its path to submitting a draft constitution as soon as possible.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7551

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7551st meeting
Monday, 9 November 2015, 9 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Hammond	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Jordan	Mrs. Kawar
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Malaysia	Mr. Aman
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Spain	Mr. Ybáñez Rubio
	United States of America	Ms. Power
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Suárez Moreno

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia (S/2015/702)

Letter dated 7 October 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/762)

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15-35543 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 9.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia (S/2015/702)

Letter dated 7 October 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/762)

The President: I wish to warmly welcome the Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General, Ministers and other representatives present in the Security Council Chamber. Their presence today underscores the importance of the subject matter under discussion.

In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Somalia to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome His Excellency Mr. Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia, and request the Protocol Officer to escort him to his seat at the Council table.

Mr. Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia, was escorted to a seat at the Council table.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: Ms. Susana Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General; Mr. Nicholas Kay, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia; and His Excellency Mr. Téte António, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2015/840, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Angola, Chad, France, Lithuania, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

I also wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/702, containing the report of the Secretary-General on Somalia, and to document S/2015/762, which contains a letter dated 7 October 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Angola, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

The President: The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2245 (2015).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make a statement after the vote.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We voted in favour of resolution 2245 (2015), prepared by the delegation of the United Kingdom, to change the mandate of the United Nations Support Office to the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA), as we, like other members of the Council, are interested in seeing the swift establishment of sustainable peace and stability both in that country and in the Horn of Africa region as a whole.

However, we note the extreme density of the text of the resolution pertaining to resources that we think should be minimized. That is particularly important given the fact that the provision of technical and material support to UNSOA — now the United Nations Support Office in Somalia — is among the issues most often raised made by auditors of the Organization.

We also call attention to the very tight time frames for the drafting of the resolution and the need to support the provisional rules of procedure and the established working practices of the Security Council with regard to such types of documents, whereby amendments can be made to a draft resolution right up to the voting, and its publication in blue does not automatically mean that the drafting is at an end.

We also believe that the deployment of Government staff remains in the grey zone of administrative and budgetary control, and we are concerned about it as a matter of principle.

The President: I now give the floor to Ms. Malcorra.

Ms. Malcorra: It is with pleasure that I am here to deliver a message on behalf of the Secretary-General.

"I commend the United Kingdom for conveying this ministerial meeting and for its long-standing leadership on Somalia. The stakes are high. The international community must stand strong with Somalia.

"Next year can be momentous. A peaceful constitutional transition of power will make an extraordinary milestone on Somali's path to democracy. The new national consultative forum is responsible for agreeing on the modalities for the process. I urge the Federal Government to actively engage as many people as possible, including women, young people and minorities.

"At the same time, Somalia is consolidating its federal system. I urge Somali leaders to complete the process by the end of 2016. I also call on them to achieve genuine, inclusive reconciliation in all regions. Progress on the Provisional Constitution will be essential in the next few months. I welcome the commitment of Somali leaders to re-energizing the delayed review.

"We are deeply grateful to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for its sacrifices. The United Nations will not waver in our commitment to the Mission. I call on all partners to ensure that our military and political strategies are fully aligned. We must also redouble our efforts to strengthen Somali security forces so they can secure the country for the long term.

"Military operations alone will not defeat Al-Shabaab. Today, I renew my call on the Security Council to support a comprehensive approach that addresses the Al-Shabaab threat by offering Somalis a better alternative. That will require greater investments in community security, human rights, justice and economic opportunity, especially for young people. We must denounce the propaganda of Al-Shabaab, address the grievances that drive recruitment, and open the way for all to renounce violence.

"The best way to weaken the pull of extremism is to strengthen people's chances for a better future. That is why I also urge the international community to increase its contributions to the New Deal Compact before its review in Istanbul in February. An investment in the people of Somalia will also benefit security in the region and the world. We must urgently provide opportunities for Somalia's strong women and girls, who suffer from poverty, violence and abuse without fair participation in decision-making. I urge the Federal Government to work to exceed the goal of 30 per cent representation of women in Parliament.

"Guaranteeing basic human rights is essential to offering a credible alternative to extremism. I have repeatedly stressed that all operations against violent extremism, anywhere and under any conditions, must fully respect human rights. I commend the Government for actively participating in the Human Rights Council's universal periodic review. I also stress the importance of observing international humanitarian and human rights law in the conduct of military operations. In line with resolution 2245 (2105), adopted today, we can build on the tangible success of the United Nations/ African Union partnership and the achievments of the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM. We can do even more with the new United Nations Support Office in Somalia. I am committed to strengthening our collaboration.

"Right now, some 3.2 million people in Somalia need assistance to survive. Over the past six months, more people have lost the ability to feed their families. More children suffer from acute malnutrition. Most of these are internally displaced persons living under the constant threat of forced evictions and abuse. The dire situation is growing worse; we are expecting dangerous flooding and drought. Our humanitarian response plan is only 36 per cent funded, so we cannot fully carry out our life-saving programmes.

"Donors can make the difference between life and death, and that can help move Somalia towards greater stability and peace. The United Nations will continue to do everything possible to achieve political progress, boost security, promote human rights and relieve suffering. I urge the Council to provide active support. This is our path to defeating the threat of terrorism and realize the vision of

Somali's for a united federal country that serves all of its people and contributes to our common future."

The President: I thank Ms. Malcorra for her briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Kay.

Mr. Kay: I am grateful to you, Sir, for giving me the floor. I am delighted to be here with His Excellency Mr. Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, Prime Minister of Somalia, whose constant support for the United Nations is deeply appreciated.

As I shall end my assignment at the end of the year, I wish to take this, my final opportunity, to thank the Council for its unstinting support over the past two and a half years. Without it, Somalia would not have progressed as it has. In 2013, there was hope in the air, but also anxiety. The mountain to climb was steep. As Somalia inches towards 2016, I believe that we should recognize what is going well, reflect on why it is working and what we should learn, and set out clearly the challenges ahead.

Somalia is well advanced in its political and security transformation from failed to recovering State. When the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia started in 2013, the Federal Government was corralled in Mogadishu. Across the rest of the country was a patchwork of different local power-holding arrangements, with no tangible link to Mogadishu, little in the way of governance institutions, and with many entire districts under the control of Al-Shabaab.

Today a new Somalia with a new political map is emerging. Three new federal member states will shortly join Puntland as foundation stones of the new Federal Somalia. The fifth will be formed from Hiraan and Shabelle Dhexe and, while recognizing important recent progress, I urge swift conclusion of that process. I also urge continued progress on the national consultations leading to an electoral process in 2016 that will be conducted on time and be more inclusive than in 2012.

We should never forget that political progress has been made possible only by the sacrifices of the Somali National Army and the forces of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The Somali National Army faces huge challenges and needs to improve its capabilities and its organization, but the Council's support for it and for AMISOM has been vital. Since 2013, 14 districts, including strategically important ports, have been recovered from Al-Shabaab. Today, there is intense interchange between Mogadishu and the regions on political, economic and technical issues. Almost daily, we help Somali delegations fly across that largely roadless country the size of France. In each of the emerging Federal member states, there is a Government, an assembly and an agreed charter. Increasingly, Somalis see Government closer to them, more able to deliver for the people and be held to account by them. There is still a long way to go in terms of service delivery, the rule of law and inclusive politics. But I shall never tire of saying that, at last, Somalia is facing the problems of a country coming together rather than falling apart.

I believe we should recognize some other significant achievements; each is a collective achievement by Somalis and the international community. It is now more than three years since pirates seized a major commercial ship off the coast of Somalia. The United Nations Development Programme has helped State institutions to start delivering a range of services and, with the World Bank, is establishing a professional civil service. In 2014, early warning by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) led to early action, and Somalia avoided repeating the devastating famine of 2011. In 2015, for the first time in a quarter of a century, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) began a programme to assist thousands of refugees to return voluntarily to Somalia. Last month, two years after polio erupted again in Somalia, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Somalia polio-free. In 2014, Somalia exported a record number of livestock; it is no coincidence that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations vaccinated a record number of animals the same year. Schools across Somalia are reopening, and teachers are being trained and paid through a UNICEF-backed programme. Enormous challenges remain. Social and economic progress so far is a drop in the ocean, but it is progress.

Why are things progressing and what should we learn? This is not the moment for detailed analysis, but let me highlight five key elements in Somalia's success. First and foremost is the common agreement to put political State-building at the heart of everything, Somali-owned and Somali-led. Secondly, creative approaches and partnerships have been key, not only as enshrined in the New Deal Compact, but also in the unique parnership among the United Nations, the African

Union, the European Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. The third factor is the courage and commitment of the African Union forces in AMISOM. And the fourth element is a truly integrated United Nations that is delivering as one. Finally, there is the unity and willingness of the Security Council to innovate and to trust, for which I thank members.

While thanking partners and the Council for what they have done, it may not be surprising to members if I also ask for more. Somalia has to compete for attention and resources in an ever more troubled world. But scaling back now will crush the hopes of millions of Somalis, endanger peace and security in the Horn of Africa and East Africa, bolster violent extremism globally and risk a renewed exodus of refugees. Reducing effort should not be an option. Collectively we need absolutely to do more and better on three things: undertaking local community recovery and development in areas recovered from Al-Shabaab; supporting economic recovery nationwide to help the seven out of every 10 Somalis under the age of 35 to find jobs; and putting in place a more comprehensive approach to Al-Shabaab to engage those who truly wish to join a Somali-led political State-building project. Those are the future actions that will lock in the political and security success to date. The Council's decision today to establish an enhanced United Nations support office is vital for the next phase.

While rightly looking back and forward, we should be somberly realistic about the present. The plight of millions of Somalis is a calamity and an indictment. The vast majority continue to suffer abject poverty, displacement, insecurity and predatory corruption, with little rule of law or respect for human rights. Somali resilience is legendary, but even the most resilient may buckle in the end. In all conscience, Somalia's leaders and international partners need to do more rather than less.

Delivering humanitarian and development progress in the short term, especially given the impact of the El Niño effect, will be hard. OCHA is working flat-out to ensure the right response. The year 2016 will be one of heightened political tension — a bumpy, adrenaline-fuelled ride. Al-Shabaab will do everything it can to disrupt federalism and the electoral process. Somalia's leaders need to reconcile competing demands and strive to place national interests above personal or community interests. International partners need to stay the course, be united and respect Somali ownership, but be crystal-clear on their expectation that Somalis need to agree the rules for the 2016 electoral process and then stick to them.

My final words are ones of thanks, not only to the Security Council and the Secretary-General for giving me the honour to serve in Somalia, and to my team, who work tirelessly in austere and dangerous conditions, but also to the President, the Prime Minister and the people of Somalia for their hospitality and patience. I thank the African Union for its constant partnership, and I welcome the new Special Representative of the Chair of the African Union, Ambassador Madeira.

My final thoughts are with the family and friends of the seven United Nations colleagues murdered in the line of duty in Somalia since 2013. The most fitting tribute we can pay to them is to redouble our work for peace. I salute and thank the whole United Nations family in Somalia for its service, comradeship and courage.

The President: I thank Mr. Kay for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Téte António, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations.

Mr. António: Today's meeting is taking place against the backdrop of major achievements in Somalia towards the realization of Vision 2016, for which we must commend the leadership of the Federal Government of Somalia and the Somali security forces. We must also commend the countries of the region, which, through the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), have remained actively engaged in the efforts to achieve peace, security and reconciliation in Somalia.

I pay tribute to all the uniformed and civilian personnel of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), as well as to the troop- and police-contributing countries, namely, Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda. Since their deployment, which is now entering its ninth year, AMISOM personnel has displayed an unparalleled commitment, sense of duty and courage. At the African Union (AU), we take particular pride in their achievements. The huge sacrifices they have made have enabled Somalia to open a new and more hopeful chapter in its troubled history. We are determined to ensure that the sacrifices made are not in vain.

I would like to thank the United Kingdom for convening this meeting, which will provide us with an opportunity to take stock of the situation, including

the implementation of Vision 2016, and agree on how best to address the remaining tasks. I acknowledge the presence of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, which is yet further testimony of the importance that the United Kingdom attaches to the situation in Somalia and a reflection of its determination to assist that country to overcome the daunting challenges confronting it.

I commend the members of the Security Council for their continued commitment to the quest for peace and reconciliation in Somalia. Over the years, they have continued to extend significant support to the African Union-led efforts aimed at neutralizing the Al-Shabaab terrorist group and creating the conditions for the successful conclusion of the ongoing political process.

It would be remiss of me if I did not once again put on record the African Union's deep appreciation to Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon for his tireless efforts towards the promotion of peace and security on the African continent and in Somalia in particular. I have no doubt, as we move ahead, that we can continue to rely on his support. The deployment of AMISOM and the progress made in the implementation of its mandate would not have been possible without the support of other African Union partners. Those include the European Union and its member States, as well as the United States of America.

As we gather in this Chamber today, we should applaud the Federal Government of Somalia for reaffirming its commitment to respecting the constitutionally-mandated terms of the legislature and executive. These, as all members know, will expire in August and September 2016, respectively. In this respect, the recent launch of the national consultative forum on elections is another promising step. The forum agreed on the consultative process and methodology, and began the initial debate on the approaches to the electoral process. In just a few days, public consultations on the electoral process will commence in various parts of Somalia. It is our hope that the national and regional stakeholders will maintain the unity of purpose they have shown thus far.

Significant progress has also been made against key milestones in the completion of Somalia's federal State formation process and towards reviewing the Provisional Constitution. These positive developments have greatly enhanced the prospects for the successful conclusion of the political process. Much remains to be done, however. Against this backdrop, all international stakeholders should continue to provide the required support to Somali stakeholders in order to overcome the remaining challenges. The African Union remains committed — including through AMISOM, whose mandate, as determined by the Peace and Security Council, also includes a political component — to continuing to support and facilitate these processes, in close coordination with IGAD, the United Nations and other partners.

Nevertheless, while reviewing the ambitious State-building agenda that lies ahead, we must not shy away from assessing the effectiveness of the efforts deployed on the ground, the extent to which we are promoting a truly Somali-owned process and the level of coordination among the international partners. It is only through such an approach that we can ensure that we are taking the realities on the ground in Somalia into account at every step and maximizing the impact of our support.

In Somalia, we are now facing a threat of a different nature than what we were contending with just a year ago. AMISOM and the Somali National Army have conducted a number of successful offensives, the latest being Operation Juba Corridor. While these offensives have continued to deplete Al-Shabaab capabilities by limiting their sources of revenue and freedom of movement, AMISOM was also, as a result, compelled to extend its lines of communication. The Mission now covers an expanded area of operation.

Under pressure to maintain relevance, Al-Shabaab is taking advantage of these extended lines of communication to conduct targeted attacks against AMISOM and the Somali National Army defensive positions. The group has also continued to conduct asymmetric attacks with increasing efficiency and lethality on the Government and the local population alike. The most recent attack was just a week ago on a popular hotel in Mogadishu patronized by Government officials. These attacks serve as a constant reminder of the fragility of security, not just in Mogadishu, but in Somalia as a whole.

Another source of concern is a potential alliance between Al-Shabaab and the so-called Islamic State. As a result of its depleted capability and desperation for support, Al-Shabaab is exploring this avenue for survival by possibly shifting alliances to more resourced

international terrorist groups. This is a worrying development that all stakeholders must closely monitor.

To address the evolving security challenges, there is a pressing need to step up efforts to complete the expansion phase, with a view to liberating the remaining areas controlled by the Al-Shabaab terrorist group. This will pave the way for the transition to the stabilization phase by March 2016. In line with the relevant decisions of the African Union Peace and Security Council and the Security Council, the Commission, with the involvement of all concerned stakeholders, including the United Nations, has developed a revised concept of operations for AMISOM. This document was forwarded to the Secretary-General by the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security on behalf of the Chairperson of the Commission, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, through a letter dated 23 October, for onward transmission to the members of the Security Council.

The strategic end-state, as identified in the concept of operations, is significantly to deplete the military and related capacity of the Al-Shabaab and other armed opposition groups. Within this context, the security strategy in the period ahead is to create and preserve an enabling environment for the unfolding political peace and reconciliation processes in Somalia. The concept of operations addresses the challenges identified by the Joint African Union/United Nations benchmarking exercise. It is imperative to note that the most consistent view expressed during the development of the concept of operations was the importance of the provision of flexible and timely logistical support to AMISOM through a more responsive and robust United Nations Support Office for AMISOM.

It was against this background that, in its communiqué of 18 September, the African Union Peace and Security Council, having welcomed the strategic review of the United Nations Support Office to AMISOM (UNSOA), underlined the imperative for UNSOA to remain an independent and dedicated capacity that reports to United Nations Headquarters and is accountable to the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for all matters relating to logistical support for AMISOM. This was seen as a sine qua non for the delivery of logistical support in a flexible, timely and responsive manner.

While taking note of resolution 2245 (2015) and acknowledging the advances it contains with respect to support to both the AMISOM and Somali national security forces, I would like to reiterate the relevance of the Peace and Security Council's position, as outlined above, and regret that this position was not adequately reflected in the resolution. I commend the African members of the Security Council for the sustained efforts they have made in the course of the consultations on the draft resolution for the AU's concerns to be taken into account.

In the period ahead, the African Union will consult with the Secretariat on the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution to ensure that the required support to AMISOM takes into account the peculiar conditions in which the Mission is operating and is delivered in a timely and responsive manner, based on the needs of the Mission and on the request made by the AMISOM leadership.

The African Union welcomes the planned provision of in-theatre medical evacuation for the Somali police force. We express the hope that that step will be followed, in the not too distant future, by a logistical support package to the Somali police force, along the lines of the one provided to the Somali National Army. That is critical, in view of the increasing role expected of the Somali police forces in the period ahead in the context of the revised AMISOM concept of operations.

While the African Union appreciates the United Nations support for AMISOM, it is also important to bear in mind that, in deploying a mission in Somalia, the AU is acting on behalf of the Security Council, which has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Accordingly, the United Nations has the duty to provide all the necessary support to AMISOM, whose action aims at creating conditions conducive for the early deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation that would support the long-term stabilization and reconstruction of Somalia.

Such enhanced support is all the more urgent and necessary, as AMISOM is facing additional constraints brought about by the decision of the European Union to cut the allowances to the uniformed personnel of AMISOM by 20 per cent, beginning in January 2016. That measure affects the very personnel who are making the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty on behalf of the entire international community. There is no doubt that that decision will have a serious adverse effect on the morale of uniformed personnel, at a time when more is expected of AMISOM on the ground. Let

me add that the decision by the European Union will compound the serious financial gap already created by the depreciation of the euro in relation to the dollar.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that we are in the last stretch of our long journey aimed at helping the Somali people and authorities bring to a definite end over two decades of senseless violence, untold suffering and complete anarchy, which has affected both regional and international security. At this critical juncture, AMISOM and the Somali national security forces deserve increased support. Without such support, we run the risk of undermining the tremendous achievements made at such a high cost during the past nine years.

Needless to say, our support to Somalia should go beyond security. We have to step up our efforts to address the prevailing humanitarian challenges, which were compounded by the recent flooding, which resulted in additional displacement of populations. We have to increase our economic and financial support to provide the much-needed peace dividends to the suffering Somali population. We have to step up our capacity-building assistance for the emerging Somali State to be able to stand on its own and shoulder its responsibilities. It should nonetheless be clear that, ultimately, Somalia's leaders have the primary responsibility for responding to the aspirations of their people to peace, security and reconciliation. They ought to do more and demonstrate the necessary leadership, vision and determination to that end.

The President: I thank Mr. António for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

Mr. Sharmarke (Somalia): I am pleased to be present here today to participate in discussions on moving Somalia forward. It is indeed an honour for Somalia and to all of us here. Somalia cannot thank the Security Council enough for all that it has done to support it over the years. I was pleased to hear from the speakers before me today of their optimism and commitment to support the progress that Somalia is making.

I would also like to welcome the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonweath Affairs, Mr. Philip Hammond, and to commend him for his leadership in presiding over today's meeting. I would also like to thank the Special Representative to the Secretary-General, Mr. Nicholas Kay, for his role in Somalia over the past two and a half years. Those must have been two difficult but also rewarding years for him in term of the progress that Somalia has made during his tenure as the Special Representative of the Secretary General. Mr. Kay has been steadfast in his support and infectious optimism for Somalia. It is a matter of disappointment that he has not been left to complete the process, which he has invested so much effort and emotion in shaping, along with national and international partners, especially at the present moment, when Somalia is experiencing an unprecedented level of collective momentum in the political process. I would like to assure Mr. Kay and the Council that Somalia's political leadership, both at Federal and regional levels, are committed to move forward what is in the best interests of its people and country. All of us recognize that it is in the best of interests of Somalia to complete the State-building and electoral processes within the mandate of the current Government, which ends in August 2016.

As all the briefers attested to, significant progress has been made in Somalia in almost all security and political fronts. At this early stage of rebuilding our Government, we have yet to bolster the economic sector, as has been the case with reard to the political and security sectors. With much more remaining to be done, as leaders we are prepared to go the extra mile to record more progress.

The progress in Somalia since this Government took over the reins of leadership, at the end of 2012, the challenges that have to be overcome and the tasks that are still outstanding were all covered in great detail during the last High-level Partnership Forum, held in Mogadishu from 29 to 30 July. We are certain to talk about even greater milestones at the next such meeting, to be held some time in February 2016. We encourage high-level participation and we hope both you, Mr. President, and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will join us to take stock of our achievements and challenges and to plan for a sprint-lap to elections in 2016.

As the Council is well aware, we held a series of top-level meetings on the political process in the month of October, which culminated in the inauguration of national consultative forum. Its maiden plenary session, which was held in Mogadishu on 19 and 20 October, brought together high-level representatives from the existing four regional administrations, led by their

respective Presidents, the top leadership of the Federal Government of Somalia, as well as representatives from our international partners. Regional-level consultations will start in earnest in a matter of days, ahead of the national consultative forum meeting in December, to discuss and unveil the best possible election option, in the absence of a one-person-one-vote election, and agree on a timeline for the process for elections, which must take place in 2016.

I am pleased to say that the process of establishing the last and final interim regional administration has officially begun. A technical committee, which will manage the process, has been put together. We expect to usher in the birth of a new regional administration, Hiraan and Middle Shabelle, by the end of the year.

The reconstruction-review process is in progress. Although we are not happy with the pace of progress, the institutions concerned are progressing in a manner that has neveaur before been seen.

A United Nations-facilitated workshop on the constitutional review, with stakeholder participation, was recently held in Mogadishu under my stewardship. A review of two chapters has been concluded, and we expect the remainder to be fast-tracked.

There is no refuting the fact that we have made gains in the security sector. To cement those gains, the leadership of the Federal Government of Somalia has made public its commitment to security-sector reform, especially in the areas of transparency and accountability. Progress in the integration of forces is under way. The Guulwade (Victory) Plan is key to the success of the integration process. What has not been inspiring, however, is the lack of donor support for the plan — as elaborate as it is. The Somali National Army still lacks in equipment, training and logistical support. That has hampered our ability to leverage the benefit of force integration in terms of the envisioned sustained offensive operations against Al-Shabaab. While being committed, the Federal Government of Somalia still faces challenges in assuming full responsibility for the payment of salaries to the security forces. Once we attain that goal, which we hope to do by January 2016, we hope to redirect stipends funding from our partners to further cover equipment, training and logistical support.

Despite the military gains against Al-Shabaab that Council members have mentioned, Al-Shabaab's recent offensive attacks against the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Somali National Army targets are disconcerting, to say the least. Complex attacks against hotels are a sign that, although Somalia and its international partners have won the war against Al-Shabaab, that group has yet to be dismantled. The Somali terror network's recent proclamation of allegiance to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham (ISIS) is not to be taken lightly. For all its modest gains against that terrorist organization, Somalia cannot afford to allow a space for ISIS to exploit, which could enable it to reverse the hard-earned progress on security for which AMISOM and the Somali National Army have sacrificed so many lives. That is why we need the support of the Council more than ever before: to stand with Somalia against that terror network and to deny it the ability to regroup and to pose renewed threats in Somalia and the region.

A resolution of the crisis in Yemen is crucial. That would go a long way towards keeping Al-Shabaab from accruing support from ISIS by using Yemen as conduit or launching pad. It is also vital to rally support for the Guulwade Plan. The Federal Government is committed to building the ability of its security forces to absorb the kind of support that they expect from our international partners. That is the job of the leadership of the Somali National Army, as well as the essence of effecting recent leadership changes at the top, namely, to bring about strategic, technical and operational reforms. The Federal Government of Somalia is prepared to back up those changes with progressive policies and civilian control.

There is a serious need for AMISOM and the Somali National Army to reflect on recent attacks on their bases. The toll that Al-Shabaab is exacting against them compromises the confidence of the Somali people with respect to confronting Al-Shabaab. We welcome and encourage the efforts of our international partners to eliminate the leadership of Al-Shabaab. We owe it to AMISOM and to the Somali National Army to fulfil their commitment to defeating them.

Finally, concerning security, while our special forces have performed impeccably well in saving lives, in real time, in the face of complex attacks on civilian business premises, our intelligence and pre-emptive capacities remain seriously flawed. Because of systematic intelligence shortcomings, our people are being subjected to preventable losses. That must end. It is disappointing that we seem to have resorted to verbal condemnations of Al-Shabaab. Their tactics are well

known. We must focus further on action. With better coordination among AMISOM forces and between AMISOM and the Somali National Army, we can again turn the tables against Al-Shabaab and neutralize its ability to pose any real threat to civilian or military targets.

Thanks to the Security Council's anti-piracy resolutions, we have seen almost no incidents of violence during the past two years or so in Somali waters. While the result is reassuring, there is a need for sustainability. There is a need to protect the livelihood of coastal communities, long ravaged by piracy activities. Somalia also needs the Coucil's support with respect to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in its waters.

Lastly, poverty and the lack of economic prosperity play a major role in the appeal of extremism and terrorism. Uneducated, underemployed and unemployed youths remain a ticking time-bomb for Somalia — time that we cannot afford to waste. Somalia needs investment to support job-creation initiatives, education, vocational training and other basic infrastructure development programmes that will lead to true stability and sustainability. We can look to examples in the region for proof that the appeal to violent extremism decreases with individual or societal prosperity. As a Government, we are putting in place the necessary legal frameworks to attract and guarantee investment.

Ones again, I would like to thank the Council and its leadership for promoting world peace and prosperity in general and for its continued support to the people of Somalia.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my national capacity as the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

It is an honour to follow the Prime Minister of Somalia, who is working so hard to rebuild his country. Let me also thank the Secretary-General and Ambassador Tête António for all that the African Union has done to ensure that the United Nations and the African Union are working together to bring peace and prosperity to the people of Somalia.

Our purpose today is to discuss what more we can do to defeat Al-Shabaab and deliver a better future for Somalia. But before we do so, I think it is helpful to remind ourselves of the past. Just four short years ago, Al-Shabaab controlled major cities inside Somalia, including Kismayo and the capital, Mogadishu. The security environment made trying to run a business a high-risk venture, where owners risked their goods, their property and sometimes their lives. That affected all of us directly too. In 2010 alone, there were 174 pirate attacks, and Somali pirates held 404 hostages. Fortunately, there has been much progress. Al-Shabaab is on the back foot, with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali National Army now controlling 80 per cent of Somali territory. Somalia's economy is reviving, with gross domestic product on the increase and shops and businesses opening at ever increasing rates. Off the shores of Somalia, as the Prime Minister has said, there have been no successful pirate attacks for over two years.

I am pleased to describe that progress, because the United Kingdom has long recognized the need to build enduring peace and security in Somalia. Our commitment is clear and we have invested heavily. We are Somalia's second-biggest bilateral donor. We have opened an Embassy in Mogadishu, the only European Union member State to do so. And we have strong personal links with the thriving Somali diaspora in the United Kingdom.

But we must today take time to recognize and pay tribute to the bravery and sacrifices made by the brave AMISOM and Somali National Army troops on the front line of the fight. We should also pay tribute to the Federal Government of Somalia for the commitment it has demonstrated in helping to steer Somalia towards the completion of the federal map and a permanent sustainable political settlement.

I also commend the vital role of the United Nations. Nick Kay has worked tirelessly since July 2013 as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations is at the centre of international coordination and support for Somalia under difficult conditions, including the tragic loss of seven United Nations civilians. We are very grateful to him and his team for everything they have done. I am also grateful to the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM (UNSOA), the most direct and tangible contribution of the United Nations to countering terrorism and extremism in the Horn of Africa. The successes of AMISOM and the Somali National Army in combating Al-Shabaab would have been impossible without the essential logistical support the Mission provides. It is clear that UNSOA has been under-

resourced and that it has been operating at the very edge of its capabilities. I am therefore pleased that today we have all agreed to put that right, and I thank the Council for supporting resolution 2245 (2015).

But the challenge for all of us — Somali and non-Somali alike — is to sustain effort and momentum, and to be fully coordinated as we do so. On security, that work has started. The President has committed to significant security sector reform, and I urge him and his Government to press forward with the implementation of those reforms. The United Kingdom will continue to play its part. As our Prime Minister announced here in September, we will deploy military, logistical, engineering and training expertise to reinforce the United Nations Support Office in Somalia in support of the African Union peacekeeping mission in Somalia.

Building security and stability are key, but the foundation on which they rest is political progress. In 2016 the eyes of the world will be on Somalia. Conducting a credible electoral process next year is critical. A failure to do so would risk undermining the collective effort to defeat Al-Shabaab, and all that has been achieved so far. It would risk undermining the international community's support for Somalia but, most important, it would undermine the right of the Somali people to hold its leaders to account. Ensuring a credible electoral process will allow Somalia to show the world just how much progress has been made since 2012. It will quieten the remaining sceptical voices that say that political renewal cannot be achieved, and it will help in ensuring that the international community remains committed to supporting Somalia on the right path — a path towards a more secure, peaceful future.

The United Kingdom remains committed to supporting progress in Somalia. I urge the Council and other international allies to continue their commitment to the country. Unity of purpose and effort will ensure success. Over the coming year, our commitment must be shared by all across the political spectrum in Somalia. Personal differences and vested interests must be set aside for the good of the nation as a whole. As the Council has set out in resolution 2232 (2015), all key actors and institutions in Somalia, including Parliament, should engage constructively to ensure progress. Only then can we truly say that Somalia has turned a corner.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council. I now give the floor to other members of the Security Council.

Mr. Aman (Malaysia): Mr. President, through you, I wish to express my delegation's appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia, for his presence and for his briefing, which we heard with great interest. I also wish to thank Ms. Susanna Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Nicholas Kay and Ambassador Téte António, Permanent Observer of the African Union, for their respective briefings, which were informative and helpful.

I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to the tireless dedication and efforts of the men and women serving in Somalia under the United Nations banner and in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). We honour their bravery, sacrifice and selfless service as we do the bravery, sacrifice and selfless service of the Somali national security forces. The unflagging commitment to and sacrifices made in providing support and assistance to the Government and the people of Somalia are a shining example of cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, fully in line with the highest ideals of the United Nations as enshrined in the Charter.

Your presence here today, Mr. President, demonstrates the United Kingdom's commitment to Somalia, particularly in its development and transition towards political and economic stability and to lasting peace and security in the country and in the region as a whole. Taking into account Somalia's troubled history, its achievement to date of many significant milestones in building a democratic and politically inclusive State bodes well for the future. We are pleased to note and commend the strong commitment and ongoing support provided by a multitude of international partners and stakeholders towards entrenching democratic norms, good governance, including management of public finances, justice and rule of law, and respect for human rights as well as in addressing the acute humanitarian and development needs of the country.

As a current member of the Council, Malaysia has participated actively in ongoing deliberations on how best we could collectively provide the necessary assistance and support needed by Somalia, while being fully mindful of the need to ensure that such efforts remain fully Somali-owned and Somali-led. In addition to resolution 2245 (2015) just adopted, the Security Council has adopted this year alone resolutions 2244 (2015), 2232 (2015) and 2221 (2015), which attests to

the comprehensive and high level of Council's attention on Somalia.

Such attention is not only appropriate, but also absolutely critical to ensuring Somalia's continued upward trajectory and in maintaining international peace and security, particularly in the region of the Horn of Africa. In this regard, we are heartened that Somalia's State-formation processes, including the establishment and operationalization of state and regional administrations, could be concluded in 2015, paving the way for the realization of Vision 2016. Accordingly, we would urge all parties to conclude the necessary arrangements for an inclusive, transparent and credible electoral process.

We are also pleased to note that notable progress has also been made on women's political participation and leadership at national and local levels. We hope that efforts to redress gender imbalance in political representation are sustained. We are confident that, with the full commitment and determination of all leaders and relevant actors at the national level, coupled with support from international and regional partners, further key political and developmental milestones could be achieved. Looking ahead, Malaysia believes that future United Nations engagement with Somalia should more closely involve the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. With the support of the United Kingdom, we were pleased to have convened an informal interactive dialogue of the Council with Somali Government representatives, the Peacebuilding Council (PBC) and United Nations system actors during Malaysia's presidency in June 2015. We are convinced that there is much scope for enhancing complementarity between the Council and the PBC, including on Somalia.

While noting the many significant and positive gains made thus far, one key challenge which threatens to derail the progress achieved to date is the prevailing security threat. At the forefront of such threat is, of course, Al-Shabaab. While significant headway has been made in degrading Al-Shabaab's capabilities, it retains a significant ability to inflict death and destruction, as was seen in its recent attack on the Sahafi Hotel earlier this month.

We wish to stress that the fight against terrorism cannot be won through the force of arms alone. We therefore continue to advocate a comprehensive strategy of winning hearts and minds, not only of perpetrators but perhaps more critically, of their support bases within the civilian population. At this delicate stage of transition, it is important that public trust and confidence in national security institutions and actors be maintained. Malaysia believes that political leaders at the national and local levels, working in close coordination and collaboration with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), AMISOM and the Somali national security forces, are best placed to take the lead in this regard.

A related area of worry is the protection of civilians. We remain concerned by reports of allegations of continuing human rights violations and abuses, particularly against women and children. We urge the relevant authorities to investigate such allegations and ensure that perpetrators are held to account. At the same time, we greatly appreciate the ongoing efforts by United Nations actors on the ground, particularly UNICEF and UNSOM, in promoting awareness and mainstreaming the issue of child protection in the policies and activities of the Somali National Army. We commend the Federal Government's commitment and determination to end and prevent recruitment and use of children by national security forces.

The humanitarian situation in Somalia remains fragile, due in part to the volatile security situation and domestic economic challenges that exacerbate the difficulties observed in delivering humanitarian assistance across large parts of the country. The conflict in Yemen has also placed additional stresses on the humanitarian infrastructure in Somalia.

Despite having only modest resources and capabilities, since the early 1990s, when we first contributed troops to the United Nations Operation in Somalia II, Malaysia has supported and assisted Somalia; it continues to do so today. To date, Malaysia has undertaken a number of development initiatives in Somalia, including projects to refurbish and upgrade existing wells as well as to install water pumps in remote areas in order to supply clean water to approximately 20,000 people. We have also disbursed financial and in-kind contributions to schools for disabled children, internally displaced persons, orphanages and the Somali National Eye Centre.

Recently, the Malaysian non-governmental organization, Perdana Global Peace Foundation, initiated a microcredit project aimed at empowering women and single mothers to start their own small businesses. In line with our commitment to South-South cooperation, Malaysia continues to offer technical

assistance, including higher education scholarships, to Somali nationals under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme. We stand ready to consider providing tailored courses if so requested.

In conclusion, I reaffirm Malaysia's commitment to working closely with all Council members, the Federal Government of Somalia, the United Nations, the African Union and the international community towards lasting peace, security and development for Somalia.

Ms. Power (United States of America): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting and for the United Kingdom's deep commitment to stability and democracy in Somalia. I would also like to thank Prime Minister Sharmarke for joining us today and for his leadership. I am grateful to Mr. Kay, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his dedicated work and for all he has given and the risks he has taken for Somalia over the years, and to Ambassador António for all that the African Union (AU) has invested in and sacrificed for Somalia.

At the end of August, Mogadishu experienced something it had not had in years — an international book fair. More than 1,000 people came from around the country and abroad. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was one of them. They bought books, attended readings, participated in panels and discussed issues ranging from literature to education to local governance. According to one report, more than half the books sold were written by women. That such an event could occur and so many people would attend demonstrated just how much is changing in Mogadishu. Locals recalled the open-air book fairs that used to take place in the 1980s. One said, "With events like this, Mogadishu is gradually reclaiming its image". A Somali who travelled from the northern city of Hargeysa told a reporter,

> "It is my seventh time in Mogadishu. This time it is different. So much creativity and talent displayed in one place... It is beautiful being here."

The change under way in Somalia is real. We all know the fragility of the political transition, and we all know the horrors still being inflicted by the terrorist group Al-Shabaab, which continues to assault Somalia's Government and people. But it is important to recognize that there have been security and economic gains and that those gains are meaningful and important. The international community's focus must now be on building and sustaining momentum on two critical and interconnected fronts — improving security through increased military and police pressure on Al-Shabaab and improving governance by supporting accountable Government institutions.

Thanks to the perseverance and sacrifice of African Union soldiers, and with support from the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA), the territory that Al-Shabaab controls is shrinking, while Government authority is expanding, as seen, for instance, in the recapture of key towns such as Baardheere and Diinsoor. But while Al-Shabaab is diminished, its brutal strikes on civilians in Mogadishu and large-scale attacks on AU peacekeepers demonstrate that it is not defeated. Fulfilling that mission will require continuing the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union.

Resolution 2245 (2015) will help ensure that the United Nations, through the renamed United Nations Support Office in Somalia, improves its logistic support to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the Somali National Army and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia. The recently completed strategic review of UNSOA identified key ways to improve our support to the political transition, and we very much appreciate the United Kingdom's leadership in addressing the report's recommendations through today's resolution. The number of personnel supported by UNSOA has more than quadrupled, to more than 33,000. The area of operations has increased 4,000 times over. It is extremely important that the changes in resolution 2245 (2015) have now taken account of those new circumstances and responsibilities.

Maintaining momentum on the security front will require continued bilateral support for AMISOM. The African troops fighting for Somalia's future have achieved major successes, but not without significant costs — first and foremost the scores of AMISOM troops who have given their lives to this important mission and whose sacrifice we deeply respect and honour. The United States will remain a steadfast partner of the AMISOM troop-contributing countries, providing equipment, pre-deployment training and other assistance. And, as we do with United Nations peacekeeping operations, we will continue to urge that AMISOM investigate reports of serious violations or abuses of human rights, including those that involve

the killing of civilians or sexual exploitation and abuse, and that AMISOM hold accountable those responsible.

Ultimately, lasting security in Somalia will come through the development of a professional and effective Somali National Army that respects human rights and civilian control. The United States has provided some $300 million in training and other support, and we will continue to help the Somali National Army build capacity so that it can defend its people. But a new Somalia will not come through military force alone, needless to say, and improving governance in Somalia must be a huge and urgent priority.

The security gains of AMISOM and the National Army have created a historic opportunity. It is now up to Somalia's political leadership to seize it and, with the help of the international community, to lead the transition to a stable, national and representative Government. To that end, we welcome President Hassan Sheikh's repeated commitment to holding elections in 2016, which have been reiterated by his administration, the Parliament and regional officials. We urge the Somali Government to work with the international community to ensure a process that is free and fair and that ultimately represents the will of the Somali people, including internally displaced persons and refugees.

We also appreciate the President's public commitment to improving accountability and transparency in the security sector. The same high standard must be rigorously applied across the entire public sector. There can be no tolerance for corruption, fraud or abuse within the Government or the electoral process. Such misconduct will threaten the entire transition. The Somali people deserve a Government that puts the public's needs first and is committed to serving all Somalis.

The Mogadishu international book fair points to the readiness of Somalis to put war behind them. As one of the fair's organizers said, "Next year will be bigger and better, God willing". He was referring to the fair, but his words ring equally true for his country. Somalia's future can be bigger and better if security and political progress continues. The United States stands alongside Somalis in their determination to see that happen.

Mr. Ybáñez Rubio (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting at such a crucial time for Somalia, and to thank Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke and the key actors in the region, such as the African Union, as represented by Ambassador António, for their presence. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Susana Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General, and especially Mr. Nicholas Kay, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for all his work in helping us to reach this hopeful moment.

During our time on the Security Council, Somalia has definitely remained high on the African agenda. Spain is firmly committed to Somalia and the region, as we have demonstrated through our participation in major international forums, most recently the High-level Partnership Forum held in Mogadishu in July, and through our contribution to and participation in the operations and missions in the area.

The Somali political process has suffered numerous ups and downs in the past few years. While we can say that significant progress has been made, much still remains to be done. With our focus fixed on the coming year and meeting the goals established in Vision 2016, we should urge all the Somali political actors to be decisive in addressing the country's major challenges — the process of creating a federation, the 2016 elections and the fight against Al-Shabaab. In that regard, we welcome the progress that has been made with the process of building a federal State, in which a number of states are already participating, and with successfully completing their interim constitutions, and we urge them to continue negotiations with the remaining states.

The 2016 elections will be key for Somalia. We were pleased to see the launch of the consultative process for settling the election format and the holding of the most recent national consultative forum on 19 and 20 October. We hope that spirit of cooperation will continue in the regional consultations due to take place in the coming weeks, so that in December, at its next national consultative forum, Somalia can agree on a format for the 2016 elections.

In the preparations for the elections, there are two issues to that we consider to be fundamental. First, we must ensure that, regardless of the formula used, the electoral process will be inclusive, transparent and representative. The second concern is holding the elections on schedule in August 2016. Achieving that will require that the executive and legislative bodies overcome their potential differences and work on constitutional reform and developing a legal framework that allows for the holding of the elections. We commend President Mohamud's commitment made at the United

Nations in New York to holding elections in 2016, and we are convinced that Somalia, with its various powers, is ready to carry out that task successfully in the coming months. To that end, it has the support of the United Nations and the Security Council.

Al-Shabaab poses the greatest threat to security in Somalia and the region. Its terrorist activities this year demonstrate that the group remains active with full operational capability. While we welcome the advances of the African Union Mission in Somalia in recent months, we draw attention to the need to effectively exercise State authority in the territories that have been recovered from Al-Shabaab so that their inhabitants can enjoy the dividends of peace. We believe that military operations in and of themselves cannot end the threat of terrorism, and that what is necessary is a broader approach to fighting Al-Shabaab, including support for the development of a State capable of providing its citizens with security, political participation, economic opportunities and the protection of human rights.

Security sector reform is key in that regard. The Somali National Army and police should increase their role and effectiveness so as to ensure security in the zones liberated from Al-Shabaab and along the principal supply routes. To that end, we encourage the Somali authorities to implement the Guulwade Plan and Heegan Plan, because we consider it crucial to achieve substantive progress in reforms before the 2016 elections.

The humanitarian situation remains extremely serious and risks being exacerbated by the El Niño weather phenomenon. We are also concerned about the arrival of Somali refugees from Yemen, given the limited resources to receive them.

To conclude, Spain is convinced that the peace, stabilization and development of Somalia will not be possible without the construction of a State, and there will not be a sustainable State without Somali ownership. To that end, while we recognize and appreciate the efforts made so far, we encourage the transitional Government and the various institutions and actors participating in the process to overcome their differences and work together for Somalia and for Vision 2016, which have the international community's support.

Mr. Van Bohemen (New Zealand): The presence in the Council today of Secretary Hammond confirms the United Kingdom's strong commitment to Somalia. We also wish to thank the Secretary-General's Chef de Cabinet, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Kay and Ambassador Téte António for their briefings, and Prime Minister Sharmarke for his statement.

New Zealand has had a considerable involvement with Somalia and the Somali people during the past 25 years. A good number of Somalis came to New Zealand as refugees in the 1980s and 1990s and have settled in our country. The last time we served on the Council in 1993 and 1994 coincided with the high point of the United Nations peacemaking efforts through the United Nations Operation in Somalia II and then the sad collapse of those efforts as Somalia descended into a state of lawlessness that made the continued presence of peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel untenable. It was a sad and difficult time for the Council and for the United Nations as a whole, for Africa and, most of all, for the Somali people.

Thanks principally to the efforts of the African Union (AU) and the countries of the region, acting through the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and with the support of the United Nations, Somalia is now in a better, if still difficult situation. There is much that can rightly be celebrated — not least the fact that there is in place a functioning Federal Government of Somalia and Government security forces that, together with the AMISOM troops, have managed to push back Al-Shabaab and loosen its hold on much of the country. We commend the bravery of the Somali and AMISOM troops and pay particular tribute to the willingness of Ethiopia and Kenya to continue to lead the fight against terrorism in the Horn of Africa. Thankfully, as we have heard, piracy is no longer the perennial threat off Somalia's coast that it used to be.

However, the Secretary-General's report (S/2015/702) highlights the many difficulties that still have to be addressed across a wide spectrum, ranging from the basic need to establish security and stability across the whole of the country, to putting in place sound and representative governance structures, to re-igniting economic development and to ensuring respect for the rule of law and human rights. It is clear that Somalia has some distance to go in its transition to again being a fully functioning State.

It is essential that the Security Council and the wider United Nations system continue to support Somalia, the States of the region and the African Union throughout the process. Important measures have

been taken in the past few months to put that support on a firmer basis. We note in particular the steps to harmonize the mandates of AMISOM and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), following the joint United Nations-AU benchmarking review of AMISOM and the recasting of the United Nations support operations for AMISOM and UNSOM through resolution 2245 (2015), which we have adopted today.

The Council will need to continue to pay close attention to the situation in Somalia in the coming years. Despite the many other pressing issues on its agenda, the Council cannot afford to see Somalia slip back into anarchy and violence. As the past 20 years have shown, that would be a disaster for the whole region, as well as for the people of Somalia. On the ground, there will need to be practical measures to improve coordination as recommended in the benchmarking review, in particular, the proposed High-level Partnership Forum and the trilateral memorandum of understanding between the United Nations, the AU and the troop-contributing countries. We urge the newly appointed heads of AMISOM, UNSOM and the United Nations Support Office in Somalia to make relationship-building and cooperation between their organizations key priorities.

We also urge other States in the region to continue to support Somalia's process of national rebuilding. They are central to progress on federalism and to long-term political stability. They need to be part of stabilization and service delivery in the areas recovered from Al-Shabaab. The development of a truly national Somali National Army requires their support for the implementation of the Guulwade Plan and for the long-term development of the Army.

At the political level, the Somali National Consultative Forum and next year's elections will be important milestones on Somalia's path back to nationhood. Somalia's leaders at both the national and regional levels have vitally important roles to play. Their focus must be on the good of the country and of the Somali people and not on their personal or clan self-interest. It was the pursuit of those narrow interests that led Somalia to national disaster in the 1990s. In that regard, the levels of corruption in Somalia are a real threat to stability and to economic and political progress. The non-payment of Somali soldiers is a continuing example of that, and one that will undoubtedly affect security both in the short term and the long term. We welcome the Federal Government's efforts to tackle corruption, including by investigating the non-payment of soldiers, and urge it to continue those efforts.

It is almost 25 years now since Somalia last knew peace. Through the courage, determination and sacrifice of the Somali leadership and people, AMISOM contributors and other international partners, we now have the real possibility of a different Somalia — one of unity, stability and prosperity. The Council must continue to play its part in making this a reality.

Finally, let me thank Nicholas Kay for his signal contribution to Somalia's recovery.

Mr. Suárez Moreno (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish at the outset to thank you, Sir, for convening this debate. My delegation expresses its gratitude to Ms. Malcorra, Mr. Kay, Mr. Tête António and Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke for their briefings.

Despite the security constraints, the political situation in Somalia has seen progress, as reflected in the commitment of the political leaders of that sisterly nation and the Somali people to promoting for peace and stability. On 23 October, the Permanent Representative of Somalia briefed the Council (see S/PV.7541) on the progress seen in the functioning of institutions, such as the Board of Directors of the Central Bank of Somalia, Somalia's parliamentary oversight committees, the Office of the Accountant General and the independent Office of the Auditor General.

We applaud the various achievements under way in the country's political process, in particular the establishment of the Boundaries and Federation Commission, which will be responsible for advising Parliament on the delimitation of the federal states' borders, regional Administrations and districts in the country. Venezuela emphasizes that the achievement of lasting peace in Somalia will depend largely on that important federalization process.

We also look forward to achieving an agreement on security sector reform, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for the institutions in the new, federalized Somalia. Such reform must encourage the integration of the militias into the national security apparatus and create human rights accountability mechanisms. Importantly, the measures to strengthen peace and political stability must be implemented holistically, with improvements in the socioeconomic conditions of the Somali people at the core of the process

as a whole. Without a genuine focus on the conditions that fuel terrorism, neither peace nor security will exist for Somalia and the neighbouring countries that are suffering the brunt of such acts.

With respect to the security situation in Somalia, we highlight the smooth triangular cooperation among the African Union, through the deployment of ground troops, the United Nations through its political and logistical assistance, and the European Union and other countries in providing financing. Everything has been carried out with the consent and active participation of the State of Somalia, including its national armed forces.

In that context, Venezuela reaffirms its full support for resolution 2245 (2015), which was just adopted by the Council and, inter alia, establishes the mandate of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia to provide logistical support to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia nd the Somali armed forces through joint operations with AMISOM. However, Venezuela remains concerned about the spread of Al-Shabaab deeper into the Horn of Africa, particularly in north-eastern Kenya, and its new strategy of blocking humanitarian access routes and asymmetric attacks. We are also concerned that the absence of a viable civilian administration in areas liberated from Al-Shabaab is leading to a resurgence of intercommunal conflict in southern and central Somalia.

With respect to the humanitarian situation, we must keep in mind that, although the situation has improved exponentially compared to 2010 and previous years, 3.2 million people still require survival assistance. I recall that Somalia ranks second worldwide in infant mortality, to which we must add the 203,000 malnourished children and 1.1 millions individuals displaced from their homes.

In that context, Venezuela expresses deep concern over the decline in humanitarian aid due to financial and security constraints. On the one hand, United Nations action is severely underfunded, achieving only 28 per cent of the necessary funding; on the other, the important and noteworthy humanitarian effort that took place in Mogadishu in 2011 has been undermined by the actions of the Al-Shabaab terrorist organization, which has resorted to blocking humanitarian aid access routes. It is particularly alarming that, as the presence of new diplomatic actors has increased in the capital, the number of humanitarian actors in the country has been reduced by the lack of resources and insecurity.

In short, Somalia has accomplished important progress in the political sector in recent years. Going forward, the Somali authorities should proceed with caution, ensuring that the process of federalization is compatible with the sustained political and institutional momentum.

To conclude, the ongoing dynamic compels us to maintain and strengthen our commitment to the State of Somalia and its authorities in the fight against Al-Shabaab, to overcoming the conditions of socioeconomic exclusion of the majority, to consolidating the political process and to caring for those affected by the conflict. Without international help, that will prove impossible.

Mr. Lamek (France) (*spoke in French*): I too wish to begin by thanking you, Sir, for presiding over this meeting. Indeed, it signals the United Kingdom's commitment to an issue that is so important to us all.

I thank the Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia, the Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General, the Permanent Observer of the African Union and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, for their interventions. I wish to pay tribute, through the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, to those United Nations personnel who have paid with their lives in their commitment to assisting the Somali people.

We have just adopted resolution 2245 (2015), on redefining the logistical assistance mandate entrusted to the entity that will henceforth be known as the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS). I thank the British delegation for drafting the resolution, which implements the conclusions of the strategic review conducted by the Secretary-General. The mandate of the entity is clarified and the procedures are simplified, with a focus on increased operational effectiveness in the field. Those changes were necessary.

France salutes the courage and dedication of the troops of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali security forces in leading the fight against Al-Shabaab. I pay tribute to all soldiers of the African Union who have made the supreme sacrifice in the fight against Al-Shabaab. The efforts of the international community, especially the African Union, with the support of the European Union and the

United States, are paying off, but they can be reversed. Much more progress is necessary.

Al-Shabaab is demonstrating significant resilience, and while international and Somali forces theoretically control 80 per cent of the territory, the terrorist organization remains capable of operating over a large part of the same. Our common objective is to continue the fight against that terrorist group, which persists in carrying out murderous attacks against Somali institutions and AMISOM, as well as in Kenya. Al-Shabaab remains undefeated, as was again demonstrated by the 1 November attack, which caused many casualties. France extends it condolences to the Prime Minister and, through him, to the people of Somalia over this new, heinous attack.

Given the situation, it is essential that AMISOM quickly resume the offensive in order to exert maximum pressure. The need for a surge in effectiveness would correspond to a qualitative improvement in the functioning of AMISOM and its troops, as affirmed by resolution 2124 (2013) and recalled in resolution 2232 (2015) of last July. That should result in concrete and operational improvements. AMISOM troops must be fully integrated under a single, clear chain of command, with joint planning and execution, and full sharing of information; necessary force multipliers must be made available. AMISOM would greatly benefit from such implementation without further delay. We call on the African Union and the troop-contributing countries to follow up.

Qualitative improvements in logistical support, through the adoption of a new mandate for UNSOS, will remain dead letter without the active involvement of the Somali Government in building a credible Somali National Army that is responsive and financially sustainable. That is one of the main challenges of the current period. The international community stands ready to tackle this issue, in support of the Somali authorities; however, international support in the area of security-sector reform must be contingent on an increased demonstration of the will of the Somali Government in this respect. The issue of the payment of salaries and bonuses must also be resolved as a priority matter, failing which the security situation could deteriorate.

As previous speakers have noted, the headway made in the military drive against Al-Shabaab will be lasting only if it goes hand in hand with a robust, dynamic and credible political process. France welcomes the efforts of the Somali Government to reach agreement on a federal structure and better governance, particularly through the creation of regional interim administrations and a strengthened effort to combat corruption.

Beyond that, from a political point of view, 2016 will be a decisive year because of the elections. This will help to confer indisputable legitimacy on the country's authorities, which will be able to continue and consolidate their efforts to bring Somalia back onto the path towards lasting peace and long-awaited development.

Mr. Barros Melet (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): We wish to thank the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom, Mr. Philip Hammond, for having convened a meeting on this important issue. We would like also to thank Ms. Susanna Malcorra for her briefing, on behalf of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and that of His Special Representative for Somalia, Mr. Nicholas Kay.

We welcome the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Mr. Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, and Mr. Téte António, Permanent Observer of the African Union.

In recent years, we have been witness to the joint efforts undertaken by the Somali authorities, international partners, the African Union and the United Nations system to bring about peace and development in Somalia. Given that the year 2016 will be a key one for Somalia, the international community must redouble its efforts to support that country. Political actors must also continue to contribute to the achievement of unity and consensus, especially in the areas of the restoration of the rule of law, the constitutional process and political and federal integration.

We value the indications given by Somali leaders with regard to their intention to continue on the path of a broad and inclusive political process. In this regard, we hope that women will be included as active participants at all stages of peacebuilding, as they are powerful agents for change.

The security situation remains a source of concern. We value the efforts of the Federal Government of Somalia, the African Union Mission in Somalia and other international actors in the fight against Al-Shabaab, and we reiterate that this offensive, in keeping with international law and human rights, must go hand in hand with a process of stabilization and consolidation. As we have repeatedly stressed in

the Council, terrorism cannot be overcome through military means alone. It is vital to address the issues of social exclusion, poverty and limited access to education, all of which provide fertile ground for the spread of extremism and terrorism.

We are concerned by the humanitarian situation in Somalia and its impact on boys and girls. The international community must respond to the regional crisis by supporting the various humanitarian calls made.

We welcome the adoption of resolution 2245 (2015). Given the pivotal role that the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia has played, it was deemed necessary to adapt its configuration to the current situation on the ground, so that it could continue to be a relevant actor. We hope that the United Nations Support Office in Somalia will address and respond to the existing administrative, coordination and structural shortcomings.

The resilience of the people of Somalia and their desire to overcome conflict are encouraging, which is why at this stage the international community cannot fail them. As President Michelle Bachelet so rightly stated in the Council last January (see S/PV.7361), peace is a prerequisite for the protection and promotion of fundamental rights, and social inclusion and inclusive development are preconditions for peace.

Mr. Gaspar Martins (Angola): I should like, at the outset, to thank you, Mr. President, for having come to New York to preside over this important meeting on Somalia. I wish in particular to welcome the presence of the Prime Minister of Somalia, whom I also thank for having come to New York and for having shared with the Council his vision of the new Somalia. I also thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for his briefing, and the permanent Observer of the African Union for participating in this meeting as well.

The Angolan delegation welcomes the convening of this debate on the situation in Somalia at a crossroads for the country's future. The briefings delivered here have provided a better understanding of the progress achieved and of the challenges being faced by the people and the Government of Somalia, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the United Nations and international partners, which have joined forces to help to build the new Somalia in peace and in stability.

In 2016, Somali is expected to hold elections, which will represent a crucial landmark in the implementation of Vision 2016, the road map established by the Somali authorities regarding the federal and State-building process, the constitutional review and preparations for elections. However, despite the significant progress achieved so far, we must acknowledge deep concerns over the political crisis and tensions among State actors at the highest level.

Last year, political tensions between the President and the former Prime Minister resulted in considerable delays in the establishment of vital parliamentarian organs and overall progress in the implementation of the Vision 2016 inclusive political framework. After decades of instability, Angola expects that the political actors will put the highest interests of the State and the people at the centre of their concerns, instead of political agendas.

The leaders and the people of Somalia must stand united and remain focused on the country's political priorities, which, in accordance with the national and international consensus, are the preparations for and holding of elections in 2016, to advance the State-building process and fight against Al-Shabaab terrorists.

In this regard, we welcome the second Ministerial meeting of the High-level Partnership Forum, the creation of the National Independent Electoral Commission, the Boundaries and Federation Commission and the Independent

Constitutional Review and Implementation Commission. The avowed possibility that a one-person, one-vote election may not be held in 2016 is a matter of concern, and we look forward to the setting up of an alternative electoral ballot method, taking into account the need for inclusivity and the enfranchisement of all Somalis.

Inclusiveness and commitment are key issues in the Somali political and constitutional process. The meeting on the constitutional review process recently held in Mogadishu produced a road map for an inclusive and participatory process. It established benchmarks for the adoption of a new constitution by March 2016, which we hope will be met.

The most recent report of the Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group on Somalia (see S/2015/801) raises alarming questions related to the misappropriation of

resources by the political and business elite, corruption, human rights violations by anti-Al-Shabaab forces, delays in the establishment of vital parliamentary organs, and activities of individuals or groups referred to as "spoiler networks in Somalia". Everything must be done to impede those alleged spoilers to jeopardize the efforts and hopes of the whole nation, especially Somali youth.

Regarding the fight against Al-Shabaab after the success achieved by Operation Eagle and Operation Indian Ocean, it is vital to establish State authority in the areas recovered from the terrorists, establish services that benefit the population and, by so doing, remove some of the root causes of support for terrorist groups. In that regard, we welcome the progress made in building the capacities of the Somali National Army and State police forces and in the implementation of the national programme for disengaged combatants, while expressing concern over the lack of sufficient funding for those crucial projects. The National Army and police will be called upon to play a crucial role in securing the elections during the electoral period, when the Al-Shabaab terrorists are expected to try actively to disrupt the electoral process.

In that context, we are deeply concerned that the Somali Government is experiencing difficulties in paying salaries to the Somali National Army and other security forces. That situation might gravely impair the preparations, readiness and the security and stability of the country in general. Nevertheless, we commend the support that the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia is providing to the Somali National Army and that of all Member States contributing to the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund established at Somalia donor conference. We also commend the countries contributing troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia and the troops themselves, who are engaged in an extremely difficult mission. Angola takes this opportunity to express a heartfelt tribute to all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the fight against the forces of terrorism, and for the attainment of freedom and, ultimately, for peace in Somalia.

With regard to the human rights situation, we deem it particularly important that the Federal Government and the regional authorities ensure strict compliance with international standards and respect for the rule of law in security operations.

In conclusion, despite the substantial progress achieved to date, the situation prevailing in Somalia is still fragile. It is up to the international community, particularly the Security Council, to remain vigilant and supportive in ensuring sustainable peace, stability, economic and social development, and respect for human rights and the rule of law in Somalia. The Somali Federal Government and all stakeholders must remain committed to those goals in order to continue enjoying the confidence and support from the international community for the attainment of the goals which involved a great investment to guarantee a better future for the people of Somalia.

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): Your presence in the Council today, Sir, demonstrates the importance that the United Kingdom accords to the search for peace and security in Somalia. We welcome the Prime Minister Sharmarke of Somalia to the Security Council, and thank him for his statement. We deeply appreciate the statements of our briefers. We thank Mr. Nicholas Kay for his resilience, Ambassador Téte António for his determination and Ms. Susana Malcorra for her commitment.

Somalia has made significant progress in its post-conflict recovery. That seems to be the consensus around the table. The formation of federal states and the creation and consolidation of regional Interim Administrations are eloquent examples of that progress. We also see encouraging developments in the establishment of key mission-building institutions, in particular the Boundaries and Federation Commission. We believe that these building blocks are essential to the realization of efficient and stable federalism in Somalia.

The conduct of nationwide elections will serve to consolidate that federalist approach. We urge the Somali Government and other stakeholders to commit to an inclusive, legitimate and peaceful process in the conduct of the 2016 elections. The composition of the National Independent Electoral Commission and the appointment of the chairperson are significant developments. It is essential that the Commission be sufficiently equipped and empowered to successfully prepare and manage the 2016 electoral process.

The current attacks by the Al-Shabaab terrorist group continue to pose a threat not only to Somalia, but indeed to the entire region. We commend the determination and courage of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali National Army

in fighting Al-Shabaab, and we express are unwavering support for the ongoing Operation Juba Corridor. We welcome the recent African Union-United Nations harmonized concept of operations for AMISOM. We hope that it will enhance United Nations support to AMISOM and political process in Somalia.

It is crucial that the military gains recorded by the joint operations of AMISOM and the Somali National Army against Al-Shabaab be consolidated to forestall a resurgence of the group. We believe that this can be best achieved by a coordinated stabilization strategy. The formation and operation of functional caretaker administrations in the newly recovered districts must remain a priority in order to avoid the creation of a vacuum that could be exploited by terrorists.

Security sector reform (SSR) is an important vehicle for supporting the security and safety of the State and indeed the Somali people. In that regard, we take note of the efforts of the Federal Government of Somalia to build a more integrated and accountable security sector. The development of effective and accountable security sector institutions would significantly benefit the process of stabilization in Somalia. If those strategies are to produce tangible outcomes, attention must be paid to the development of a Somalia national security architecture and other SSR initiatives.

On the economic front, we acknowledge the efforts of the Federal Government to promote sustainable economic development in Somalia through a national development plan based on the New Deal Compact. We welcome the recent International Monetary Fund article iv consultation mission in Somalia, described in the Secretary-General's report (S/2015/702) as the first in 25 years. It is our expectation that this will facilitate the country's access not only to concessional lending, but especially its debt forgiveness process.

Still on economic issues, we commend the World Bank for its support to the development of the Somali power sector and other measures the Bank has taken to enhance job creation and private investment in the country. We also commend the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for its support to the Somali agricultural sector, including the vaccination of 14 million livestock.

With regard to health care, we welcome the adoption in June of the Somali National Health Policy. We acknowledge the progress made in service delivery across Somalia with essential health services now reaching over 4.2 million people.

Concerning the education sector, we are pleased to note that, in June, over 7,000 students took the first centralized examination for students completing secondary school since 1991. This is a major achievement for which we commend the Somali authorities. We urge donors to field the funding gap that is hampering the provision of non-formal training to overage children. The more young Somalis can be productively engaged, the better it will be for social stability in the country.

Resolution 2245 (2015), which the Council unanimously adopted today, will significantly enhance the capacity of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia, the successor to the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia. This is critical for effective operations by AMISOM and the Somali National Army.

As the leaders of Somalia and all people of good will steadily and stridently reassemble the elements and ingredients of national power, we must all sustain the momentum. We commend the leaders of Somalia for their commitment to reducing the threats to peace and security in their country. We acknowledge their efforts to comply with relevant Security Council resolutions. We encourage the Government and all stakeholders to remain focused on the task ahead. Our collective aspiration is to see in the very near future a peaceful, stable, prosperous, federalist, democratic and united Somalia.

Ms. Murmokaitė (Lithuania): I thank the presidency of the United Kingdom for organizing this briefing on Somalia, which reminds us that this country definitely merits the Council's focused attention. I thank all the briefers for their valuable inputs. Allow me to express special thanks to Special Representative of the Secretary-General Nicholas Kay, who established and led the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) under exceptionally difficult conditions, always with the interests of the Somali people at heart. We warmly welcome Prime Minister Sharmarke's presence in the Chamber this morning.

The recent positive developments in Somalia — political stabilization, the declaration of Vision 2016 and genuine steps towards federalization of the country — encourage cautious optimism about its future. The Somali leadership has come together and agreed to inclusive and transparent consultations

regarding the 2016 electoral process. The regional consultations will provide crucial input to the meeting of the National Consultative Forum in December, where a decision will be taken on Somalia's electoral model. We understand that finding consensus will not be easy, but it is what the Somali people need and the international community expects.

While some may call for an extension of the current political dispensation, that is not the way to go. Somalia deserves a political transition in 2016, through an electoral process that gives the Federal Parliament, President and Government enhanced legitimacy with a new mandate. We welcome Somalia's pledge to form the final regional Interim Administration, consisting of Hiraan and Shabelle Dhexe, before the end of the year. This will, by and large, complete Somalia's federal map — an impressive achievement in itself. More attention will be needed for a strengthened dialogue and cooperation between the centre and the periphery.

Eradicating poverty and addressing the fragile economy, the lack of alternative livelihoods and weak governance structures must remain at the heart of the Federal Government's efforts, as all those factors are a major source of instability. Efforts need to continue to lay the foundations for an inclusive and sustainable economic recovery and development, as well for support for livestock, agriculture and the fisheries sector.

The active involvement of young people and women in the ongoing processes is essential. Women's empowerment and their active involvement at all levels is particularly important for sustaining the long-term stability and development of the country.

With all the positive and promising developments in Somalia, we cannot forget the serious and systematic violations and abuses of human rights perpetrated by Al-Shabaab and others against the civilian population, including women, children, journalists, parliamentarians, human rights defenders and humanitarian workers. We are particularly alarmed by the abuses against children. Other delegations have spoken to this effect. Nearly 750 cases of grave violations against children have been reported over a year's time. All parties to the conflict have a responsibility to protect civilians. All allegations of mass atrocity crimes must be investigated and perpetrators must be held to account. The same applies to the allegations of sexual violence, exploitation and abuse. We must stand firm with regard to the imperative of a zero-tolerance policy concerning sexual abuse and violence. Again all allegations to that effect must be investigated and the perpetrators held to account.

This year the Committee to Protect Journalists put Somalia at the top of the list of countries most dangerous to journalists. They are targeted by Al-Shabaab militants who have for years threatened and assaulted journalists for their courageous coverage of the group's murderous activities. Most recently, on 1 November several journalists were wounded and one killed in an attack against a hotel in central Mogadishu. We must remember those who dare to expose the terrorists, also at the expense of their own lives. They too deserve justice.

Concerted international assistance has played a crucial role in the progress that Somalia has achieved so far. We welcome the conclusions of the review of the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia, which notes that this unique Mission was overstretched and no longer entirely fit for its purpose. We hope that the newly established United Nations Support Office in Somalia, with its well-defined mandate and resources, will be able perform its role as expected.

Continued adequate support for the African Union Mission in Somalia, the Somali National Army and UNSOM is required. It is important that the long-delayed and key force enablers, such as transport and attack helicopters, be deployed, which would mark a qualitative shift in the ongoing campaign against Al-Shabaab and facilitate the permanent opening of the main supply routes that are so critical to civilian traffic, as well as humanitarian supplies.

We have 10 critical and sensitive months ahead of us. We look forward to all Somali leaders and politicians working together in good faith for the common good of the Somali people and the Somali nation. Personal interests should be put aside at this most critical juncture, for the sake of continued progress towards the fulfilment of Vision 2016. The continued and well-coordinated assistance of Somalia's international partners is also required, under the leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, to provide Somalia with the political and financial support that it needs.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank all participants in today's meeting who briefed the Council, in particular the Prime

Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia, His Excellency Mr. Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke.

We commend the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and share the assessments of the Secretary-General with regard to the activities of UNSOM contained in the strategic review (S/2015/702). We note that the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia has to operate against the backdrop of an unfolding humanitarian crisis and unabated terrorist attacks by Al-Shabaab. At the same time, it is actively involved in the political process and is addressing a growing number of tasks.

We believe that the tense military and political situation in Somalia calls for the armed fight against Al-Shabaab to be intensified through capacity-building for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali national security forces, which will require, first and foremost, a scaling up of United Nations-provided material and technical support. We are concerned about the increase in Al-Shabaab's activity, both inside and outside Somalia; the coordination of actions between Somali extremists and other terrorist organizations in Africa — Boko Haram, Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb and Ansar Eddine; and increasing Al-Shabaab attacks against neighbouring States, including Kenya, and hostilities against Ethiopia and Djibouti. We believe it is necessary to maintain military pressure on Somali extremists. We urge the international community to continue to take measures to strengthen the capacity of the Somali army and AMISOM. We highly value the efforts of UNSOM in supporting AMISOM to implement Security Council decisions in this area.

The growing task-load and problems for UNSOM — chiefly, its underfunding and understaffing — must be addressed immediately. We have no objections to proposals to increase financing to the Mission, in due compliance with standards of transparency and accountability for specialized programmes, as well as the involvement of other United Nations agencies in implementing such projects. Through targeted contributions to the relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the Russian Federation regularly provides humanitarian assistance to the Federal Government of Somalia and for Somali refugees in neighbouring countries. From 2011 to 2014, our assistance exceeded $12 million. This year, through the World Food Programme, Russia has provided $1 million for Somalia and $2 million for the approximately 1 million Somali refugees in Kenya.

Mr. Cherif (Chad) (*spoke in French*): I must first thank the United Kingdom presidency for having organized this briefing on the situation in Somalia. I also thank Mr. Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, Prime Minster of Somalia; Ms. Susana Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General; Mr. Nicholas Kay, Special Representative of the Secretary-General; and Ambassador Téte António, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, for their briefings.

Over the past few years, thanks to the huge sacrifices and tireless joint efforts on the part of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali defence and security forces, significant success has been achieved by military operations. Al-Shabaab has been notably weakened and driven from its strategic strongholds. Eighty per cent of Somalia's territory has been won back. The security situation has improved and a fertile political environment is developing slowly but surely. We take this opportunity to highly commend the AMISOM contingents and the Somalian forces for their invaluable efforts and successful achievements. We also pay tribute to all the soldiers fallen for the cause of peace.

We are also pleased to note that, on the political level, the efforts of the Federal Government of Somalia have made possible significant progress, in particular in the implementation of Vision 2016. That has been demonstrated by, among other things, the implementation of three interim regional administrations, the National Independent Electoral Commission and the Boundaries and Federation Commission. In addition, on 19 October, the President of Somalia launched the work of the National Consultative Forum, which brings together all the major stakeholders to arrive at a consensus on a more inclusive and transparent electoral process that takes into account the diversity of the Somali people. We call on the entire international community to step up its efforts to complement those under way by the Federal Government of Somalia aimed at setting up the last interim regional administration between now and the end of this year, at speeding up the review of the Provisional Federal Constitution and at putting in place a new electoral process for 2016.

Despite all of the undeniable progress that has been made, the security situation continues to be of concern because of the serious threat that the terrorist group Al-Shabaab poses. Through its indiscriminate

and lethal attacks, that group continues to undermine the peace process, with the sole goal of rendering the country ungovernable. For that reason, the joint offensive military operations by AMISOM and the Somali security forces must continue, while leaving to door open to those willing to accept a negotiated solution. Along those lines, there is an urgent need to mobilize increased support to AMISOM and the Somali security and defence forces in order to fully drive out Al-Shabaab from Somalia. In particular, that must be done by providing AMISOM with force multipliers, which have been long-awaited. That will allow AMISOM to be more effective and better adapted to countering terrorist mobility. It is equally important to build the capacity of the Somali security forces so as to gradually prepare them take over from AMISOM in the stabilization of liberated areas.

Moreover, it is fitting to note that military operations alone are not enough. They must be accompanied by a political opening and social and economic development efforts, as well as an improvement in the humanitarian situation. In that regard, it is particularly important that support from the international community be far-reaching, multifaceted and based on the premise of rebuilding the country by according priority to social and economic recovery, as well as by promoting education and youth employment. In that same spirit, we call on the international community to scale up its humanitarian assistance to people in need, especially those in areas where the terrorists have influence.

We hope that resolution 2245 (2015), which we have just adopted, will contribute to significantly reinforce, through the support of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia, the joint efforts of AMISOM and the Somali security forces, which from this point forward will allow them to benefit from more significant, flexible and timely logistical support. Along the same lines, while we welcome the future deployment of military personnel in Somalia announced by the Government of the United Kingdom, we hope that that deployment will provide the African Union forces with support adapted to the fields of logistics, engineering and medical assistance.

In conclusion, we once again convey our pride and satisfaction in seeing ANISOM and the Somali forces, with the international community's support, accomplish with dignity and devotion such a difficult mission to aid the Somali people to recover from a long and disastrous war. The Mission sufficiently proves that Africans can well live up to the security challenges that Africa is now facing, provided that the international community agrees to provide them the material financial and logistical support necessary. The lessons learned from that exemplary cooperation among the African Union, the United Nations and the European Union should lead to the development of such a model in the framework of other operations.

Mrs. Kawar (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to begin by thanking Mr. Philip Hammond for having convened this important meeting, which is geared to shedding light on what is happening in the Federal Republic of Somalia in all of its aspects. I would also like to thank the Prime Minister of Somalia, Mr. Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, for his presence at today's meeting. We are fully aware of the situation in Somalia, and therefore would like to convey to him how much we appreciate his work in that country. Jordan also would like to express its gratitude to Mr. Nicholas Kay, Ms. Susana Malcorra and Mr. Téte António for their presence here.

Jordan also sponsored today's resolution 2245 (2015), but that was not initially mentioned.

Jordan highly welcomes the considerable efforts of Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Prime Minister and parliamentarians to build a State and restore peace over the past three years. Jordan is very pleased by the achievements at the political level, which include the establishment of regional Interim Administrations, constitutional reform, the creation of the National Independent Electoral Commission, and the convening of the National Consultative Forum to explore the various modalities and formats for the elections.

Jordan affirms the need for the Government of Somalia to continue to implement the action plan agreed in the context of Vision 2016 to provide for overall reconciliation, promote social cohesion and integration, and emphasize the need to involve all aspects of society in the democratic process through free, credible and transparent elections in 2016 in order to meet the expectations of the Somali people and to return lasting peace and security to the country. We encourage all stakeholders and institutions in Somalia to cooperate to implement Vision 2016.

We also stress the importance of consolidating the United Nations presence in Somalia and assistance to Somalis throughout the country with a view to

promoting reconciliation and the protection of human rights. We call on the international community to maintain its financial and political support to the federal Government of Somalia so that it can fulfil its functions at all levels, including the organization of elections in 2016.

Jordan strongly condemns the terrorist attacks perpetrated by the Al-Shabaab movement in Somalia and neighbouring countries, which have wounded and killed many people, including innocent civilians, civil servants and others working in the missions there. We pay tribute to the important role of the African Union and its Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in neutralizing Al-Shabaab and liberating the regions still under its control. Those military operations must be continued in order to completely neutralize Al-Shabaab.

In that context, Jordan believes that the international community should support the implementation of a comprehensive regional strategy to eliminate terrorism through an integrated approach that deprives terrorist organizations of an enabling environment and cuts off their sources of financing, while helping people to meet their socioeconomic challenges so that there is no longer fertile ground for the promotion of terrorism. However, military operations are not enough to restore stability and peace. It is important to promote the rule of law and reform the security sector while establishing the necessary administrative structures and strengthening national reconciliation efforts so that Somali institutions can assume responsibility for providing security and replace AMISOM in that area.

Some 3 million people in Somalia still require humanitarian assistance. Increased coordination and support from United Nations agencies and the international community in the sphere of humanitarian assistance are therefore vital. We stress the need for AMISOM and the Somali national armed forces to continue to provide protection for roads and supply lines and to provide for the free circulation and delivery of humanitarian assistance to those who most need it. Finally, we urge the international community to assist the Somali economy by supporting economic recovery and stability in Somalia.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China appreciates the initiative of the United Kingdom in convening today's meeting. We wish to thank Secretary of State Hammond for presiding over today's meeting and welcome the presence of Prime Minister Sharmake of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

China listened carefully to the briefings by Prime Minister Sharmarke of Somalia; Ms. Susanna Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General; Mr. Nicholas Kay, Special Representative of the Secretary-General; and Ambassador Téte António, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations.

Somalia is entering a period of historic opportunities for State-rebuilding. The Federal Government of Somalia, with the support of the international community, is fully implementing Vision 2016, actively promoting the federalization of the country and striving to promote social reconciliation, speed up development and improve people's livelihood. China welcomes such efforts. Meanwhile, the security and humanitarian situation in Somalia remains fragile, and peaceful rebuilding will be a long journey. The international community should continue to support Somalia and help the Somali people emerge from the shadow of conflict as soon as possible so as to achieve lasting peace and sustainable development. I wish to emphasize the following three points.

First, in order to steadily advance the peace process in Somalia, China calls upon the international community to follow the principle of Somali leadership and ownership, actively help the Federal Government of Somalia to improve its governance capability, speed up institution-building at the local level and promote social reconciliation. We hope that all parties in Somalia will proceed from their overarching interest in the future of the nation and its people, and that they will settle their differences appropriately through dialogue and consultations so as to jointly maintain the country's peace and stability.

Secondly, with a view to truly consolidating security and stability in Somalia, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali National Army have worked closely together since the beginning of the year and achieved good results in combating terrorism. China highly appreciates the contribution of the African Union and the countries of the region to the maintenance of security and stability in Somalia, and welcomes today's adoption of resolution 2245 (2015), establishing the United Nations Support Office in Somalia. We hope that the resolution will be fully implemented so as to provide sustained and stable logistical support to AMISOM and the Somali National Army.

Thirdly, with respect to speeding up economic and social development in Somalia, only through

development can the root causes of conflict be removed and people's fundamental interests and rights safeguarded. Somalia is rich in natural resources, with great potential for development. The international community should strengthen its input into the infrastructure and agricultural sectors of Somalia in order to enhance its capacities for sustainable development. In so doing, the international community should remain in close consultation with the Federal Government of Somalia and respect its opinions.

China has been a firm supporter of the peace process in Somalia. China has long supported Somalia and AMISOM within its abilities. Within the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, China has trained a large number of personnel to rebuild the State in Somalia. Despite the terrorist attack on the Chinese Embassy in Somalia last July, which caused huge losses in human life and property, China's presence and ongoing activities in Somalia have remained steadfast, fully demonstrating the unswerving support of the Chinese Government for the peace process and State-rebuilding in Somalia. China is prepared to work with the international community to play a constructive role in the speedy revitalization of Somalia.

China and Africa, as part of a community of common destiny and interests, have been through thick and thin together. In December, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation will hold a summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, that will be the second summit of the Forum and the first to be held on the African continent. Since the inception of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, 15 years ago, through the efforts of both sides, pragmatic cooperation between China and Africa has grown by leaps and bounds and brought tangible benefits to the peoples of Africa and China. The theme of the Forum's upcoming summit is "China and Africa Joining Hands for Win-Win Cooperation and Common Development". China is ready to take that opportunity to work with all the countries of Africa, including Somalia, to enhance mutually beneficial cooperation in such key areas as industrialization, modernization of agriculture, health care, personnel and cultural exchanges, peace and security. We are ready to join hands with Africa to make the summit a historic gathering for enhancing solidarity and cooperation between China and Africa.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. In conclusion, I again thank the Prime Minister of Somalia for his presence and his statement. I also thank the briefers. I welcome the unanimous adoption of resolution 2245 (2015) and commend Mr. Nicholas Kay for his outstanding service to the United Nations.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7552

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7552nd meeting

Monday, 9 November 2015, 11.35 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Rycroft	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Casimiro
	Chad	Mr. Gombo
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Shen Bo
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Jordan	Mrs. Kawar
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Spain	Mr. Ybáñez Rubio
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Suárez Moreno

Agenda

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council. Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

15-35549 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.35 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Council has before it the text of a statement by the President on behalf of the Council on the subject of today's meeting. I thank the Council members for their valuable contributions to this statement. In accordance with the understanding reached among the members of the Council, I shall take it that the members of the Security Council agree to the statement, which will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2015/20.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7553

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7553rd meeting
Monday, 9 November 2015, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Rycroft	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	Chad	Mr. Mahamat Zene
	Chile	Mr. Olgu[illegible]n Cigarroa
	China	Mr. Zhao Yong
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Jordan	Mr. Omaish
	Lithuania	Mrs. Jakubonė
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Nigeria	Mr. Laro
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Spain	Mr. González de Linares Palou
	United States of America	Ms. Power
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Suárez Moreno

Agenda

The situation in Burundi

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15-35592 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Burundi

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Burundi and Uganda to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome His Excellency Mr. Alain Aimé Nyamitwe, Minister for External Relations and International Cooperation of Burundi, who is joining today's meeting via video-teleconference from Bujumbura, the technology permitting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, and given the seriousness of the situation and the requirement that the Security Council act and not look aside, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs; Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Mr. Adama Dieng, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide; Mr. Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland and Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission; and Mr. Téte António, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome Mr. Al Hussein, Mr. Dieng and Mr. Lauber, who are joining today's meeting via video-teleconference from Geneva, Jordan and Bujumbura, respectively.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I take this opportunity to remind speakers of the President's intention to use flashing lights on the microphones to prompt speakers to bring their remarks to a close, as we have a number of participants in this meeting and it is an important issue. I therefore encourage speakers to make concise statements.

I now give the floor to Mr. Feltman.

Mr. Feltman: I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for this opportunity to brief the Security Council on the situation in Burundi.

One year ago, on 5 November 2014, the Security Council held its last discussion on the United Nations Office in Burundi (see S/PV.7295) before it closed at the end of the year at the request of the Burundian Government. In the briefing given to the Council, the then-Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Burundi, Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, underlined our hope that the groundwork laid by Burundian authorities to preserve stability and consolidate democracy would not be reversed during the 2015 electoral cycle.

Today, one year later, Burundi finds itself in a deep political crisis and rapid escalation of violence that has serious implications for stability and ethnic harmony in Burundi, as well as for peace and security in the region. The political, economic, social and security gains that came out of the landmark Arusha Agreement are already at risk. The killing, on 22 May, of Zedi Feruzi, a key opposition figure, marked the beginning of a troubling pattern of politically motivated assassinations and attacks. Neither the conclusion of Burundi's legislative and presidential electoral cycle this summer nor the inclusion of some key opposition figures in the governing coalition calmed the situation, which has instead grown more troubling. As the High Commissioner for Human Rights will further elaborate, the number of reported human rights violations and casualties is rising by the day and spreading beyond Bujumbura.

In the capital the situation is currently very tense. Several neighbourhoods, especially those perceived to have opposed President Nkurunziza's third term, experience nightly exchanges of gunshots and grenade explosions. Traumatized residents frequently discover mutilated bodies, victims of executions. Just this morning, at least two people were killed in a grenade attack in the Musaga neighbourhood in Bujumbura. On 7 November, at least nine people, including a United Nations staff member, were killed when unknown gunmen opened fire inside a bar in the Kanyosha neighbourhood in Bujumbura. The bar was alleged to have been a previous meeting venue of anti-third-mandate demonstrators. Saturday's incident is the second time within a month that a staff member of the United Nations family in Burundi has been killed. The High Commissioner for Human Rights will provide other examples of human rights violations and killings.

In this very tense environment, inflammatory and chilling public statements from authorities have provoked concern and alarm in Burundi, the region

and beyond. In a 29 October speech, the President of the Senate, Mr. Révérien Ndikuriyo, told local administrators to be ready and to set their emotions aside if a signal were given to the police to "go to work", which has been widely interpreted as implying a pre-planned operation. He also said that "plots of land are about to be available".

On 2 November, President Nkurunziza gave armed civilians five days to surrender their arms or face being dealt with as "enemies of the nation". The President said that the police have the right to use "all available means" to find illegally possessed arms. While police forces do have the right and responsibility to maintain law and order many incidents, described as crackdown activities appear to cross the line into extra-judiciary attacks, striking fear among the residents of some neighbourhoods. Consequently, we have received reports that the President's ultimatum has prompted a large number of people living in affected neighbourhoods to flee their homes, ahead of the deadline this past weekend.

Many recent statements have also been interpreted as having an ethnic dimension, contrary to the spirit of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, which ended Burundi's civil war. The Secretary-General has strongly condemned such dangerous incitement.

The crisis in Burundi is political at its core and cannot be resolved by a security clampdown. It is not credible to claim that a small group of criminals or traitors are behind the current violence. The problem is much deeper, and therefore more worrying. To address the deteriorating situation, Burundian leaders will need to address the political deadlock that preceded and transcended the summer elections. In that regard, the Government of Burundi has established a commission for inter-Burundian dialogue, said to be open to all except those implicated in the failed coup d'état on 14 May.

While the United Nations in general supports national dialogue efforts, the Commission will not be able to make progress in the tense security context where members of political parties and civil society are frequently found dead on the streets. With many media outlets closed down since spring and opposition leaders abroad afraid to return home, the Government has not established the conditions for credible and inclusive political dialogue. We encourage the Burundian authorities to do so as quickly as possible.

On 17 October, the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council agreed on a multi-pronged approach to address the situation in Burundi. It included increasing the number of its human rights observers and military experts and the initiation of contingency planning for the possible deployment of an African-led mission in the country. The Peace and Security Council also gave its strong support to the resumption of a political dialogue in Kampala or Addis Ababa, with the facilitation of Uganda.

The United Nations is in close consultation with the African Union Commission on how to provide technical and logistical assistance and expertise to advance the implementation of the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council. We have also offered to provide support and assistance to the Ugandan-led facilitation under the rubric of the East African Community (EAC). In the coming days, the Secretary-General will announce the appointment of a Special Adviser who will lead and coordinate United Nations efforts in support of Burundi. The Special Adviser will work closely with the AU, the EAC and other partners to prevent a further escalation of the conflict and to build peace in Burundi.

The sharp deterioration of the political and security situation is happening at a time when the mandate of the current political mission — the United Nations Electoral Observation Mission in Burundi — is ending. There is clearly a need for continuing political engagement and presence on the ground to support Burundi during these difficult times. But that requires a mandate from the Security Council and the cooperation of the Government of Burundi.

Burundi finds itself at a critical juncture. A political solution must be found to resolve the crisis before it spirals out of control and affects peace and security regionally. We hope that all international partners, particularly those in the region, speak with one voice in urging and supporting Burundi to find a political settlement to the crisis. The Secretary-General calls on all Burundian parties, inside the country and abroad, to cease immediately the propagation of hate speech, to renounce violence and to engage in good faith with the ongoing facilitation of the East African Community. The United Nations is prepared to do what we can do support a credible and inclusive dialogue that can address the deep political challenges the country currently faces. We must all work to ensure that it takes place and succeeds.

The President: I thank Mr. Feltman for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Al Hussein.

Mr. Al-Hussein: I regret to report my deepening concern with regard to the increasingly grave human rights crisis in Burundi. In addition to the rising death toll, I must alert the Security Council to warning signs of further escalation, including potentially very serious regional repercussions. The country is at another crucial and extremely dangerous tipping point, and I believe that Member States and the Council can intervene effectively to prevent the repetition of past horrors.

Within Burundi, and particularly in Bujumbura, there have been increasing numbers of extrajudicial killings documented in recent months, including multiple alleged political assassinations. At least 240 people have been killed since protests began in April, with bodies dumped on the streets on almost a nightly basis. There have been hundreds of cases of arbitrary arrests and detention in the past month alone, targeting members of the opposition, journalists, human rights defenders and their families, people attending the funerals of those who have been killed and inhabitants of neighbourhoods perceived to be supportive of the opposition.

I am glad to note that the intervention of my Office, in cooperation with the Burundian authorities, resulted in the release of 340 detainees last month. However, people who express divergent views from the Government continue to live in a climate of intense fear. The abduction and murder just three days ago of 25-year-old Welly Nzitonda, son of a well-known human rights defender, Pierre Claver Mbonimpa, is one very recent and painful example. During an attempt on his life in August, Mr. Mbonimpa was himself badly wounded. His son-in-law, another human rights defender, was killed last month.

Many credible allegations of torture have been documented, notably at a locality in Bujumbura run by the national intelligence service. Violations have also been reported on the part of the national police and by the heavily armed police unit that was created in September "to fight against acts of terrorism". The Imbonerakure militia, associated with the ruling party, continues to terrorize the population, sometimes in collaboration with the police, and perpetrates human rights abuses with total impunity. Specific neighbourhoods have been locked down by police, with reports of gun battles. Unidentified, but apparently well armed and organized, individuals opposed to the Government are also committing killings.

Fear of the violence and the spectre of more bloodshed are driving ordinary Burundians out of their homes. There are now well over 280,000 internally displaced persons and refugees across the Great Lakes region. To make matters worse, it is reported that armed groups are recruiting in some refugee camps in neighbouring countries and that agents of the Burundi Government are also present to identify opponents.

Those and other signs of a suddenly escalating regionalization of the crisis lead me to emphasize that host countries must ensure that the camps are duly protected and remain civilian in nature.

President Nkurunziza announced the opening of a process of national dialogue in September. However, I regret to report that to date it has fallen short of the truly inclusive discussion that would effectively put the country back on a path to peace. Repeated killings of opposition leaders and human rights defenders and their families sharply undermine the Government's verbal commitments to reconciliation, as do recent requests for the arrests of members of the opposition and human rights defenders in exile in Europe and a tone of intense hostility in public statements.

Last week, as we just heard from the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, President Nkurunziza set an ultimatum for Burundians to hand in all weapons, warning that those who would not do so would be dealt with as enemies of the nation. That ultimatum has led many Burundians to flee their neighbourhoods for fear of police sweeps and crackdowns. Earlier today, one policeman and four civilians were reportedly killed in the Musaga neighbourhood of Bujumbura.

Recent inflammatory remarks by members of the Government have suggested that this crisis, which has involved targeting people for their perceived political affiliations, could increasingly taken on an ethnic dimension.

The President of the Senate recently ordered local authorities to identify, "elements which are not in order", and to report them to the police to be dealt with. He also called on the police to get ready to "finish the work". Phrases such as those recall language that this region has heard before and should not be hearing again. They could signal the imminence of much worse and more widespread violence.

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court recently, and rightly, reaffirmed that anyone who incited or engaged in acts of mass violence in Burundi may be subject to prosecution by her Office. I strongly support her statement.

The crisis in Burundi has been escalating for many months. The resulting loss of life, economic collapse, increasing hunger and mass displacement do not only threaten peace and stability in the country, but also across the region. The individuals responsible, regardless of rank, position or political affiliation, must be held to account. All possible influence must be brought to bear to halt what may be an imminent catastrophe.

None of us can forget the waves of killings that generated such horrific loss of life and mass displacement in the region two decades ago. I believe that the strong interventions of many officials and States in recent days may have great influence. I urge neighbouring countries in the Great Lakes region to step up their attempts to promote a credible and inclusive political dialogue in Burundi and to ensure that border areas and refugee camps in their respective national territories are not used by any actors to fuel the conflict.

I welcome the investigation to be carried out in Burundi by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, as well as the African Union's efforts to address impunity by placing 100 human rights observers on the ground. It is essential that the international community is able to respond swiftly and decisively if events deteriorate further. I urge the Burundi Government to sign a memorandum of understanding with the African Union for its human rights observers to operate in Burundi, as well as to allow the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to do its work and make its report public as soon as possible.

Moreover, although the efforts of Burundi's neighbours and regional partners will be essential, I also believe it is the responsibility of the Security Council to address a situation of profound concern, well known for many months, and which could lead to even greater carnage. I appeal to the Council to keep Burundi at the top of its agenda and to explore all possible options to prevent further violence, including steps to freeze the assets of those who would incite or who incite or engage in violence, and possible travel bans. The Council may also wish to consider involving Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations to stop the ongoing violence and prevent a regional conflict.

The Government of Burundi should be apprised of the very serious consequences that will ensue if it fails in its duty to protect all Burundians regardless of their political opinions or other affiliations. I also ask the Council and all Member States to give financial and political support to the efforts of the African Union to conduct human rights investigations in Burundi and to assist the cause of peace. My Office will be discussing how best to provide our support to the African Commission investigation this week.

It is essential that an all-inclusive dialogue take place among all stakeholders in Burundi in accordance with the Arusha Agreement, which put an end to 12 years of massacres and warfare. The dialogue should be led in coordination with the mediation process.

The urgent disarming of the Imbonerakure militia and all those who illegally possess arms must figure high on the agenda. Against the longstanding claims by the Government that armed militias do not exist within the Imbonerakure, there is indisputable evidence to the contrary. If the Government has any hope of reining in the violence, it needs to begin by disarming the Imbonerakure and ensuring that police and the national intelligence service members who have been responsible for human rights violations are brought to book. It is also vital that all opinion leaders realize that speech that incites violence must be avoided at all cost. What is needed is leadership and strong voices calling for restraint, accountability and real reconciliation.

The current crisis has already undone much of Burundi's recent political, economic and social progress. The international community, in particular the Council, contributed significantly to those gains. But their main driver was public confidence in the stability and safety of the country. The Government must urgently take public and concrete steps to restore such confidence, which is essential to preventing recourse to violence and to returning Burundi to the path of peace, national harmony and development.

The President: I thank Mr. Al Hussein for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Dieng.

Mr. Dieng: I thank the President of the Security Council, Mr. Matthew Rycroft, for convening this meeting and for extending an invitation to me to

brief members on the situation in Burundi from the perspective of my mandate.

I last briefed the Council on the situation in Burundi last May, following my visit to Burundi. I observed then that, although the crisis in Burundi was primarily political in nature, some senior Burundian leaders were manipulating the issue of ethnicity to advance their political interests. I warned that, if they continued to do so, the result could be an increase in violence in which individuals could be targeted based on their political or ethnic affiliation.

Unfortunately, that is what has happened. The country appears to be on the verge of descending into violence that could escalate to atrocity crimes. The ongoing efforts to promote dialogue have not succeeded in bringing the Government and the opposition to common ground.

The violence and human rights violations reported during the recent period include the assassination of senior members of the security forces and high-profile individuals affiliated with both the ruling party and the opposition, as well as targeted killings of ordinary civilians.

We are also witnessing the continued militarization of opposition political parties and actors, both inside and outside Burundi. Those supporting the opposition have carried out targeted killings across the country. The violence has escalated tensions and further destabilized the country. My Office has received reports of civilians fleeing from areas perceived to be sympathetic to the opposition for fear of attacks.

I was alarmed by the speech given on 29 October by Révérien Ndikuriyo, the President of the Senate, in which he used inflammatory and threatening language. Some of the language used was very similar to that used before and during the genocide of the Tutsi in Rwanda, during which Hutu moderates and others were killed, in particular the repeated use of the word *gukora*, which means "to work" in Kirundi and was used to incite people to commit genocide in Rwanda in 1994. This speech adds to the fear that ruling-party officials may be preparing the ground for widespread violence in Burundi.

It is therefore critical that the President and the senior leadership refrain from making or uttering any statement that could be considered as inciting populations to commit crimes against their fellow citizens. To do so is both dangerous and irresponsible, and it is prohibited under international law.

If there was ever a time for President Nkurunziza and his Government to display responsible and courageous leadership, it is now. For the sake of all Burundians, we need the Government to commit to restoring peace and security through dialogue and to take a series of concrete steps to de-escalate the current crisis. At the same time, this responsibility does not lie with Burundi's Government alone; the international community, in particular the East African Community, the African Union and the United Nations have an indispensable role to play in restoring peace to Burundi.

In its October communiqué, the African Union's Peace and Security Council expressed its determination to impose sanctions against those perpetrating violence, called for the deployment of additional human rights monitors, including by the African Union Commission, to investigate the ongoing violations, and requested the African Union Commission to develop contingency planning for the potential deployment of a peacekeeping mission to protect civilians. This strong commitment must be followed through with action and supported by the international community.

To deter further violence, the Security Council should take urgent measures to prevent the situation from escalating, including by providing full support to the immediate implementation of the decisions of the African Union Peace and Security Council. The deployment of African Union human rights monitors could be a key deterrent against human rights violations and abuses. The Council could urge the Government of Burundi to finalize negotiations with the African Union on the presence of these monitors, so that they can be deployed, have unrestricted access and carry out their mandate without hindrance.

Another essential factor that would contribute to preventing the situation from escalating further is the taking of measures that could act as a deterrent by putting in place measures to hold accountable those who may commit acts of violence and incite violence. The persistent accountability gap and prevailing impunity for ongoing serious human rights violations and abuses, including discourse that constitutes incitement to violence, is fuelling the crisis in Burundi. Such measures could include the immediate establishment of a commission of inquiry to investigate the ongoing violations, as recommended by the African Union. It is

also important to remind Burundi that, as a State party to the International Criminal Court, those inciting or engaging in atrocity crimes will risk criminal prosecution.

Burundi is at a crossroads, and the international community needs to wake up to this reality. No one should underestimate what is at stake. The civil war between 1993 and 2005 cost over 300,000 lives and displaced more than 1 million people in Burundi. The country's history and that of its neighbour Rwanda have shown the tragic consequences of failing to act when leaders incite or fail to contain violence. Beyond the possible human toll, a return to conflict would put the Arusha Agreement at risk and have destabilizing consequences for the entire region. We should act before it is too late. The United Nations has invested heavily in Burundi and cannot fail to take appropriate action now. I urge the Security Council to send a clear and united message to the Government in Bujumbura that it has an obligation to sit down with the opposition to address their differences peacefully. The Council should also call on all actors to renounce the use of violence. Only a sincere and constructive dialogue can avert the impending catastrophe in Burundi.

I should also invite the Council to urge the Government to bring to justice all perpetrators of human rights violations and crimes being committed. My Office and other experts and institutions have stressed that without unity in the Council on the situation in Burundi, and the action that must be taken to reverse the current crisis, Burundi may slide back into a chaos with which we are all too familiar. Given the clear information we have about the gravity of the situation, we will not be able to claim, if a full-scale conflict erupts, that we did not know. The international community has a responsibility to protect Burundians and to prevent the commission of atrocity crimes.

The President: I thank Mr. Dieng for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Lauber.

Mr. Lauber: I welcome the opportunity to brief the Security Council on my first visit to Burundi in my capacity as Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). The objective of my visit is to establish direct contact with the Government of Burundi and other key stakeholders to gain a first-hand understanding of the current political situation and to learn of the Government's plans on how to address it. I am also exploring opportunities for the future engagement of the PBC and the contributions that the Commission could make to ease tensions.

Today was the first day of my visit, and I would like to give a brief account of the meetings with representatives of the Government, the United Nations country team, the Special Envoy of the African Union and members of the diplomatic community. I had open and substantial discussions with the second Vice-President of Burundi as well as with the Minister of External Relations and International Cooperation. Those talks focused on the security situation, efforts to initiate the political dialogue among Burundians, the socioeconomic situation of the country, and partnership with regional and international actors. I encourage the Government to intensify its engagement with the international community, namely, with the East African Community, the African Union, the European Union, bilateral partners and, of course, the United Nations system.

I also expressed the hope that the Government would engage in an inclusive and genuine dialogue process in order to restore trust among the Burundian people. I encouraged my interlocutors to accept offers of international assistance or de-escalation measures such as the disarmament of armed groups. I also expressed my concern about inflammatory rhetoric that could incite hatred among different groups of Burundian society. Both the second Vice-President and the Minister reiterated the Government's interest in continued cooperation with the PBC Burundi configuration.

The continuing violence, insecurity and ongoing human rights violations appear to be key concerns for my United Nations interlocutors, who have highlighted that the situation negatively impacts the operations of the United Nations in Burundi. Let me express my deep regrets over the deaths of two United Nations staff members who have fallen victim to this violence within the past three weeks. I should also like to seize this opportunity to commend the work of the United Nations team on the ground, which is working under difficult circumstances.

Tomorrow and on Wednesday, I will meet with the First Vice-President and the Minister of the Interior of Burundi, as well as with different stakeholders, including civil society actors, political parties, the Inter-Burundian Dialogue Commission and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I will also meet with representatives of international financial institutions.

An audience with the President of the Republic is scheduled for Wednesday.

As I continue consultations, I will reiterate my appeal to all stakeholders to refrain from violence, both physical and rhetorical. I will further discuss the impact of the current situation on the economy of Burundi. I will then continue my mission to Uganda, where I will meet with the Minister of Defence, Mr. Crispus Kiyonga, who has been charged by President Museveni with facilitating the dialogue among Burundians mandated by the East African Community. On Friday, I will meet representatives of the Government of Tanzania, the World Bank and the East African Community in Dar es Salaam before returning to New York.

Upon my return to New York, I will prepare a report that will outline, inter alia, peacebuilding challenges emerging from the current situation, as well as opportunities and priorities for the PBC engagement in 2016. The report will be shared with the members of the PBC Burundi configuration at the debriefing on 18 November, as well as with the Security Council, as per established practice and in line with the advisory role of the PBC. The report will also inform the work plan for PBC engagement in Burundi in 2016.

The President: I thank Mr. Lauber for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. António.

Mr. António (*spoke in French*): We greet all those who have spoken before me, as well as the Ambassador of Uganda, who shall speak later. At the outset, on behalf of the African Union, allow me to express our sincere gratitude to the Security Council for giving us this opportunity to speak at this crucial moment in the history of Burundi. The full text of our statement will be made available to Council members, given the limited time at our disposal.

I take this opportunity to reiterate the deep gratitude of the African Union to the East African Community and the leaders of the region, including those of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. We also thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and all our bilateral and multilateral partners.

We note with concern that, since April, the peace that was hard won by Burundians is being put to the test. Burundi faces a serious political and security crisis, marked by increasing violence and serious violations of human rights. In addition, more than 200,000 Burundians have taken refuge in neighbouring countries, including Tanzania, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda.

Even as the Security Council meets here, the security situation continues to deteriorate. Initially concentrated in the capital, Bujumbura, insecurity and armed violence have spread recently to some localities of the interior. Targeted assassinations of political and military figures, extrajudicial killings, acts of torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, arbitrary arrests and illegal detentions, clashes between police and armed elements, the regular discovery of corpses in the streets in some neighbourhoods, among other manifestations, have become the almost daily lot of the Burundian population. I also note with deep concern the inflammatory statements issued by political leaders. However such statements may be explained away, they are simply unacceptable in view of the painful past of the Great Lakes region, which, more than any other region of the continent, has suffered the pangs of mass violence.

The Government of Burundi has reported on its efforts to restore security throughout nation, particularly in the so-called protest districts of the capital. While the Government estimates that it has recovered over 90 per cent of the weapons held by civilians in the course of its disarmament operations, it is clear that these efforts have not yet succeeded in restoring calm on the ground. On the contrary, we are witnessing, both on the part of the Burundian Government and of some of those contesting the President's third term, a hardening of positions and methods, as well as a serious resurgence of violence.

Faced with the growing deterioration of the political and security situation, and the real threat of a widespread confrontation in Burundi, the African Union has stepped up its initiatives to bring peace and stability to that still-fragile country. The Peace and Security Council, at its meeting held on the sidelines of the 25th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Head of State of the African Union, held in Johannesburg in June, agreed on a road map articulating actions that it was important to take to resolve the tension, avoid a spiral of violence and enable Burundi to preserve the benefits of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, which is the very foundation of the social and political pact between the various components of the Burundian people.

In addition to her previous efforts, the President of the African Union Commission, Ms. Nkosazana

Dlamini-Zuma has repeatedly made similar calls on the parties, particularly after the assassinations of General Adolphe Nshimirimana and Colonel Jean Bikomagu. These calls having not been heeded by all Burundian stakeholders, our continental organization again met in its Peace and Security Council on 17 October. On that occasion, the Council decided, inter alia, to impose targeted sanctions, including travel bans and asset freezes against all Burundian actors whose actions and words had contributed to the ongoing violence and hindered the search for a solution to the crisis. It also requested the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to launch a thorough investigation into violations of human rights and other abuses against civilians in Burundi.

In addition, the Peace and Security Council decided to increase the number of military experts and human rights observers deployed on the ground to help contain the violence and create conditions conducive to a political dialogue among the actors concerned. Similarly, the Commission was requested to begin drafting a plan for the possible deployment of an African-led mission to Burundi. Follow-up actions are being taken.

The escalation of violence and targeted assassinations against high-ranking Burundians, combined with political radicalization and rumors of military activity, attest to the volatility of the situation and highlight the already obvious need to work for a political solution to the current crisis. In that regard, let me echo the conviction expressed by the African Union Peace and Security Council that only a genuine and inclusive dialogue based on respect for the Arusha Agreement would allow the Burundian stakeholders to find a consensual solution, maintain the peace and consolidate democracy and the rule of law.

The African Union strongly supports the efforts led by President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and therefore welcomes the visit to Burundi undertaken on 28 and 29 October by the Ugandan Minister of Defence, Mr. Crispus Kiyonga, in order to discuss with the Burundian authorities the modalities for resuming dialogue.

In conclusion, I reiterate the call of the African Union to the Government of Burundi and other stakeholders concerned to weigh the gravity of situation and rise to the challenge. The future of their nation and the stability of the region depend on it.

For its part, as the Peace and Security Council has pointed out, the African Union is determined to fully assume its responsibilities under the Protocol relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and other relevant African instruments, in collaboration with the international actors concerned.

The President: I thank Mr. António for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the Minister for External Relations and International Cooperation of Burundi.

Mr. Nyamitwe (Burundi) (*spoke in French*): Let me first thank you, Mr. President, for having convened this meeting, which is indeed very important for our country. I should also like to congratulate you, Sir, on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of November. I also thank all other members of the Security Council who continue to make praiseworthy efforts that demonstrate their attentiveness to my country, Burundi. I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Adama Dieng and Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al Hussein for their efforts and good counsel with regard to Burundi.

My statement will be structured around a few points: the political situation, security and disarmament, the question of refugees, relations with Burundi's partners, economic and social development and some recommendations with regard to the international community.

With regard to dialogue, I must say that dialogue and consultation are part of the traditions of our country. It is therefore necessary and fitting that, when necessary, Burundians should sit down at the table and discuss the issues that divide them, or reflect more upon the issues that unite them. This good practice should absolutely be implemented and I believe that the region, the African Union, the United Nations and we ourselves are saying the same thing when we say that it is essential that there be a dialogue with regard to questions that are of great importance for our country. The terms and conditions may vary, but we agree on the whole that there is a need for dialogue. Of course, our delegation reaffirms that dialogue will continue, as it characterizes good governance and ensures national cohesion. This noble task falls primarily to Burundians themselves, even if we cannot deny the contribution of friends seeking to strengthen national cohesion.

It is in this context also that the Head of State, following lengthy consultations, established the Inter-Burundian Dialogue Commission, which is politically, ethnically and religiously inclusive and promises to study the issues in depth, bringing together far more people and stakeholders around a common theme or themes. During its mandate, the Commission will have to address issues related to politics; social relations; the economy; the strengthening of peace and security; even an assessment of the Arusha Peace Agreement, which was signed 15 years ago; the reading and understanding of our Constitution; the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement; the Charter of National Unity that was adopted by referendum 24 years ago; education programmes and patriotic training; and so on. The Inter-Burundian Dialogue Commission will have a six-month mandate, which can be extended if needed. It will issue quarterly reports to be submitted to the Head of State for his decision and implementation. Copies of these reports will be submitted to both chambers of our Parliament, the National Assembly and the Senate.

At this stage, I should like to clarify the position of our country vis-à-vis the regional efforts of the East African Community concerning the dialogue. We are in permanent contact with the Ugandan facilitation, with President Museveni, through the Minister of Defence, Mr. Crispus Kiyonga, who was in Burundi a little over a week ago for talks with the authorities of my country on the path to follow in the coming days so that Burundians and Burundian political partners can spend more time studying the issues that currently divide them.

From this point of view, allow me to once again lay to rest certain misunderstandings. Our Government is not against the dialogue recommended by the East African Community Summit, on 6 July in Dar es Salaam. On the contrary, as I said earlier, we may have differences of opinion on the terms, but overall we agree on what is most important, which is that dialogue must take place.

On the security front, our delegation wishes to inform the Council that the entire country is generally calm and that citizens are going about their activities peacefully, except for in a few well-defined areas in certain neighbourhoods of Bujumbura. In that regard, I would question the reliability of the information that has been provided at this meeting by Mr. Téte António of the African Union. I do not know if it was the African Union Mission in Bujumbura that informed him that insecurity was spreading to other regions and other cities outside Bujumbura. I wish he would inform us of what cities and give us the names of those places that are lacking security in the country, outside of certain neighbourhoods of Bujumbura, because that is surprising information.

Contrary to the information conveyed by the foreign-based radical opposition and by some affiliated media, Burundi is not burning. The few incidents of crime aimed at attracting the attention of the international community are being controlled. As the Council knows, security is the cornerstone of everything, because in its absence no beneficial action or development is possible. Burundians yearn for peace and equality and are committed to maintaining it day and night with determination. There are several peacebuilding initiatives in various parts of the country, but these have unfortunately been ignored by the media, which are content to report only on the violence and chaos that supposedly reign in the country.

With regard to disarmament, our delegation reiterates the commitment of the Government of Burundi to pursue its disarmament programme through prevention and dialogue. The Council will recall that, on 24 September, Decree 100/36 was signed, exempting unlawful possession of firearms from criminal prosecution, giving an extension of one month to any person living in Burundi in illegal possession of firearms, ammunition and/or related material, and allowing them to immediately and voluntarily return such material to the defence and security forces. This act of clemency on the part of our Government to those weapons-bearers allowed them to voluntarily surrender their weapons and not be penalized.

Perhaps this is also an opportunity to clarify the legitimacy of the decision to extend that time frame by a few days. The decision was made in order to provide an opportunity to those illegally in possession of weapons to surrender them directly to the authorities, because, in Burundi as elsewhere, unlawful firearm possession is not permitted and even less so the use of weapons against security forces or against peaceful citizens. It therefore goes without saying that, in an organized State, security forces must be able to fulfil their mandate comprehensively.

The defense and security forces must therefore continue search-and-seizure operations in order to seize illegally held weapons. Over the course of

those operations, numerous weapons and military paraphernalia were seized, as well as medications and narcotics, which are put into the service of those criminals. Two months after the Government's commitment to restore peace to the country, the mission entrusted to the defence and security forces was 92 per cent successful. As of the end of October, 139 rifles, 151 grenades and other explosives, 7,151 cartridges and 151 loaders were seized. Since the beginning of the year until the end of October, the permanent national commission for the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons had already collected more than 400 rifles, 440 grenades and explosives, 12,455 cartridges and 416 loaders.

Allow me to clarify, for in the framework of those operations, and following an ultimatum that has been misinterpreted in certain circles, what has transpired has not been fully understood in the Council. In a spirit of transparency, since the fall bgan such operations have been conducted in the presence of African Union monitors. That was done under a mandate entrusted to them during a meeting of the Peace and Security Council that took place on 13 June in Johannesburg, which was later reinforced by a decision taken on 17 October. The monitors are therefore part of the operations, thereby illustrating our Government's intentions of good faith to work with its partners.

Today, our Government calls on the perpetrators of those crimes to renounce an approach that will lead nowhere. The path of violence is a dead end, a waste of time and an obstacle to the future of our youth, who are so necessary to rebuilding our country. The five-day extension, which expired on 7 November, was an opportunity to put an end to the situation. I point this out to Mr. Al Hussein. I think that we all agree that it is important that human rights abuses be avoided at all costs and that they do not go unpunished. It is crucial to know how to reconcile the duty of the State in shouldering its responsibilities in ensuring security at the national level, but it is also extremely important — and I fully endorse what Mr. Al Hussein, Mr. Dieng and others have just said — that there needs to be a demonstration of authority in the management of those issues, and specifically disarmament, so as to avoid violations that would undermine peace and security in my country.

With regard to the issue of refugees, it has been clearly established that we must do everything possible to ensure that that those who fled the country owing to the political situation at the time, particularly in April, are able to return. That is the reason that the Government is in contact with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and those countries that welcomed our brothers and sisters, so that we can engage the tripartite commission with the aim of repatratriating the refugees. I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to neighbouring countries that have hosted refugees. We know that that is no easy task. In the past, our country also hosted refugees for several years. We therefore understand that it is a costly endeavour, especially when such a situation occurs suddenly.

We also call upon our partners to take allegations seriously. I think Mr. Al Hussein correctly addressed that issue earlier. I cannot say enough how much we deplore the fact that some refugee camps have become grounds for recruiting young people to fill the ranks of rebel groups, and who in turn will continue to disrupt peace and security in the country. We believe that the way the refugee camps such as the one in Mahama, Rwanda, are being managed is extremely ill-advised. I believe that even the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region had the opportunity on more than one occasion to highlight that we want to uncategorically build our region in peace and security, and that of course entails the proper management of the refugee camps.

With regard to rebuilding trust with our partners, my delegation would ask our traditional and non-traditional partners to continue to focus on the future of the country. I believe that this morning's meeting with the Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission was once again an opportunity to ask him to plead in my country's favour, so that we can all move towards the future together. Our country still needs its friends. We will not be able to rebuild our country without the contribution of traditional partners, with whom we have had a bitter-sweet relationship but who nevertheless came back to support us after we obtained our sovereignty, in 1962, so that we could offer more opportunities to participate with others in the world in the new era of globalization. We therefore believe that threats by some of suspending development assistance runs counter to the noble goal of building a more equitable and just world. For we think that the Burundian people have the same rights as everyone else.

To certain members of the Security Council and others of the European Union, we would like to clarify that we did receive the request from that organization to open consultations with Burundi on the basis of article 96 of the Cotonou agreement. That concerns human rights matters, the state of democracy and governance. We have received that correspondence and are in full consultations so as to willingly provide an appropriate response within the set time frame to our partners. In any case, our intention remains one of maintaining increasing beneficial cooperation among our people and European and other partners.

Within the framework of rebuilding confidence, my delegation humbly requests that countries in the North, as well as in the South, that continue to harbour individuals accused of reprehensible international and national crimes, such as those who were implicated in the coup of 13 May 2015 — as well as other wrongdoers — that they cooperate with our Government so that they can be prosecuted. I believe that that is not just a matter of human rights. Other parties need to cooperate too. That is very important.

In upholding the Charter of the United Nations we also would ask that certain individuals, who are part of destabilizing activities after the elections of 2015 and the coup d'état, would stop being supported and disseminating destabilizing messages from their host country, as those are not acts apt to favorize friendly relations and cooperation among countries. For its part, the Government of Burundi is committed to pursuing peaceful diplomacy with its partners on the principle of reciprocity. We have seen that unfriendly actions by neighbouring countries and others is extremely destructive. On that account, I would like to state that it is noteworthy that we have demonstrated peaceful gestures towards our neighbours and will continue our policy of good-neighbourliness whatever situation we happen to encounter.

Over the years, my country has always demonstrated restraint. There have been no notable acts of aggression against its neighbours, and we shall maintain that policy of good-neighbourliness, despite the turbulence that we are currently experiencing. We intend to establish a new framework for growth and combating poverty. We would therefore request the support of our traditional and our non-traditional partners in carrying out the far-reaching project of eliminating poverty in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. The Burundi configuration will play a key role therein, just as it has a key role of mobilizing resources in other post-conflict countries. That role will become crucial. within the framework of establishing a bridge between Burundi and its partners in the restoration of trust between the parties.

I should like to make a few of the most important recommendations to the international community concerning the current situation in Burundi.

First, the end of the electoral process provides an opportunity to evaluate the evolution of the democratic culture in the country. It is also a good time to note the strengths and weaknesses that will allow all players to draw lessons learned so as to better prepare for the future.

Secondly, there is a vital need for investment in the economy and in community-rebuilding through generous financing for projects that create employment for youth, women and other vulnerable individuals, which will offer them an alternative to violence.

Thirdly, to the extent possible, it is important to avoid resort to sanctions, which are ineffective in many ways. They not only affect the most vulnerable, but they also radicalize base positions on the political situation.

Fourthly, support for the inter-Burundian national dialogue at all levels is a sound approach that will have the positive effect of encouraging the Government and the opposition to act together in the interests of the country. The dialogue will allow citizens to share their views on questions that divide the Burundian people, and to find lasting solutions for lasting reconciliation,

Fifthly, it is vital to cooperate and engage in dialogue with the Government of Burundi and other stakeholders instead of hardening positions by issuing contradictory press communiqués and adopting selective sanctions vis-à-vis certain players in Burundi. The head-on confrontation with our partners of the past few days must stop. It is essential to rebuild trust in good faith together through frank and sincere dialogue.

By way of conclusion, allow me simply to state to all those who have taken the floor that while we understand those of their concerns that may be justified, the Government nonetheless remains ready to work further with its partners at the regional and continental levels. Our first priority is to allay any fear of the genocide that has been widely touted in the press. We must do our utmost to ensure an end to the flow of

Burundian blood. Even one death in the country is a national tragedy.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Uganda.

Mr. Nduhuura (Uganda): I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Sir, and your country, the United Kingdom, on your assumption of the Security Council presidency for this month and for organizing this important meeting on the security situation in Burundi. I also thank you for inviting Uganda to brief the Council on the efforts of the East African Community to facilitate dialogue in Burundi.

Until recently, Burundi had been a success story, based on the efforts undertaken by the region to address insecurity in the country. The efforts of the region led to the signing of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement. The Heads of State of the countries of the region have continued to provide their support for peace-building efforts in Burundi. Fifteen years after the signing of the Arusha Agreement, all the country's political leaders, including those in exile, must aim to find common cause and commit to building on the stability that was ushered in by the Agreement.

Uganda underscores the role of regional and subregional organizations in the peaceful settlement of conflicts, in line with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. The United Nations and the international community should support the efforts of regional and subregional organizations to address the challenges relating to peace and security, human rights and development.

On 31 May, an emergency summit of the East African Community was convened on the situation in Burundi. Those attending the summit included His Excellency Mr. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa and guarantor of the Arusha Accord, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, and the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. The Heads of State were concerned about the violence in Bujumbura and other parts of Burundi that had led to the deaths of many people, as well as to the influx of refugees into neighbouring countries and the destruction of property. The summit called upon all parties to stop the violence and exercise restraint.

At the third extraordinary summit of the Heads of State of the East African Community, held on 6 July, His Excellency Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, was asked to lead and facilitate a high-level dialogue in a bid to find a lasting solution to the political situation and to ensure that peace returns to Burundi. Accordingly, on 14 and 15 July, President Museveni was in Burundi and met with all the stakeholders in a bid to create momentum for dialogue. The President has also been in contact with the Secretary-General and leaders in the region.

Subsequently, President Museveni delegated The Honourable Chrispus Kiyonga, Uganda's Minister of Defence, to continue facilitating the dialogue in Burundi. On behalf of the President, the Minister traveled to Bujumbura and chaired a series of stakeholder meetings on 16, 17 and 18 July. In those engagements, the Minister underscored the need to find a durable political solution through dialogue among all parties and called on them to desist from incitement and violence. He left Bujumbura, and elections for the President took place on 21 July.

On 26 July, His Excellency Mr. Pierre Nkurunziza sent his special envoys, Mr. Pascal Nyabenda, Speaker of the Burundi Parliament, and Mr. Agathon Rwasa, First Deputy Speaker, along with two other members of Parliament, to Kampala. It was further agreed that the East African Community-mandated dialogue must continue.

Uganda remains committed to facilitating the dialogue, as mandated by the Heads of State of the East African Community. In that regard, Mr. Kiyonga visited Bujumbura on 28 and 29 October in order to follow up on his assignment in Burundi. He held meetings with the President of the Senate and his two deputies; the President of the National Assembly with his two deputies, including Mr. Rwasa, who comes from the opposition; the Minister of Home Affairs; and the Commission appointed by President Nkuruziza to conduct the Inter-Burundi dialogue. In all the meetings he held with the officials mentioned previously, the Minister of Defence received similar, consistent messages indicating that while they welcome the East African Community intervention, their preference is for the Community to play an advisory role to the Commission.

Minister Kiyonga reiterated that the East African Community facilitation efforts would proceed as originally conceived, but would indeed work with the Commission. In the light of the Minister's position, the officials promised to get back to the Community

after consultations with their principal, His Excellency Mr. Pierre Nkurunziza, President of the Republic of Burundi. In view of the recent meetings held in Bujumbura, we are optimistic that there will be progress. The next summit of the East African Community Heads of State is scheduled to take place on 30 November, and the security situation in Burundi will certainly be on the agenda.

It is important to note that the region has remained actively seized of the matter and that recently, on 20 October, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region held a meeting of Ministers of Defence in Luanda, which discussed, inter alia, the security situation in Burundi. In its recommendations, the meeting, first, appreciated the efforts of the East African Community mediation process led by His Excellency Mr. Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, in search of peace and stability in Burundi; and, secondly, welcomed the willingness of the Government of the Republic of Burundi to engage in an all-inclusive inter-Burundian dialogue on various themes to be conducted in and outside Burundi in consideration of peace and unity, as required by the people of the country. At the same time, the African Union Peace and Security Council has continuously demonstrated its ability to follow the security situation in Burundi closely, as reflected in its recently adopted communiqué of 17 October. All these regional efforts are consistent with Chapters VII and VIII of the United Nations Charter.

We stress the importance of coordination among international and regional efforts in supporting dialogue in Burundi. All efforts must be focused on a credible and inclusive dialogue aimed at re-establishing the trust and reconciliation that will ensure confidence-building among all parties and a return to the security and stability that will spur development in the country.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. We have heard how high the stakes are, and I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.